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GOLIATH

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BLACK GOLIATH™



YOU MAY
BE A GIANT IN
YOUR WORLD,
GOLIATH, BUT
IN MINE--

--YOU
ARE MERELY
ONE MORE
VANQUISHED
FOE!!



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WHILE TITANS RAGE!

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WITH YOU ON MEAD
SCHOOL SUPPLIES.**

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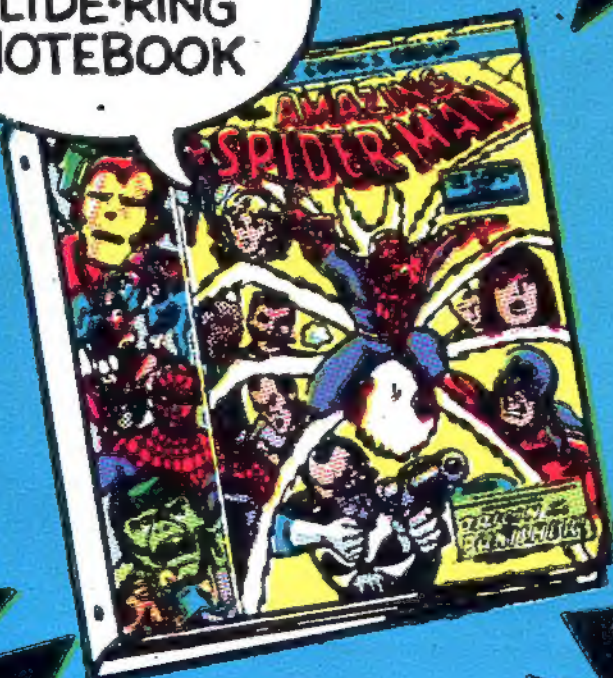
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Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

BLACK GOLIATH!™

CHRIS CLAREMONT * KEITH POLLARD * I. WATANABE * BONNIE WILFORD * ARCHIE GOODWIN
AUTHOR ARTIST LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR

"PERSONAL LOG--
FARSCOUT OFFICER
DERATH 'ATH MACHLAN'N,
IMPERIAL 417.6174:

"IF THERE IS A HELL
IN THIS UNIVERSE
THEN ITS NAME IS
KIRGAR.

"SECOND PLANET OF
THE BLUE-WHITE STAR,
DHARHALLA, IT IS A
WORLD OF TOTAL
DESOLATION.

"IT IS DESERT AND
MOUNTAINS AND
DESERT AGAIN
STRETCHING FROM
POLE TO POLE...

"...A MADMAN'S PLAY-
GROUND OF DUNESTORMS
THAT CAN FLAY ONE TO
THE BONE IN MINUTES...

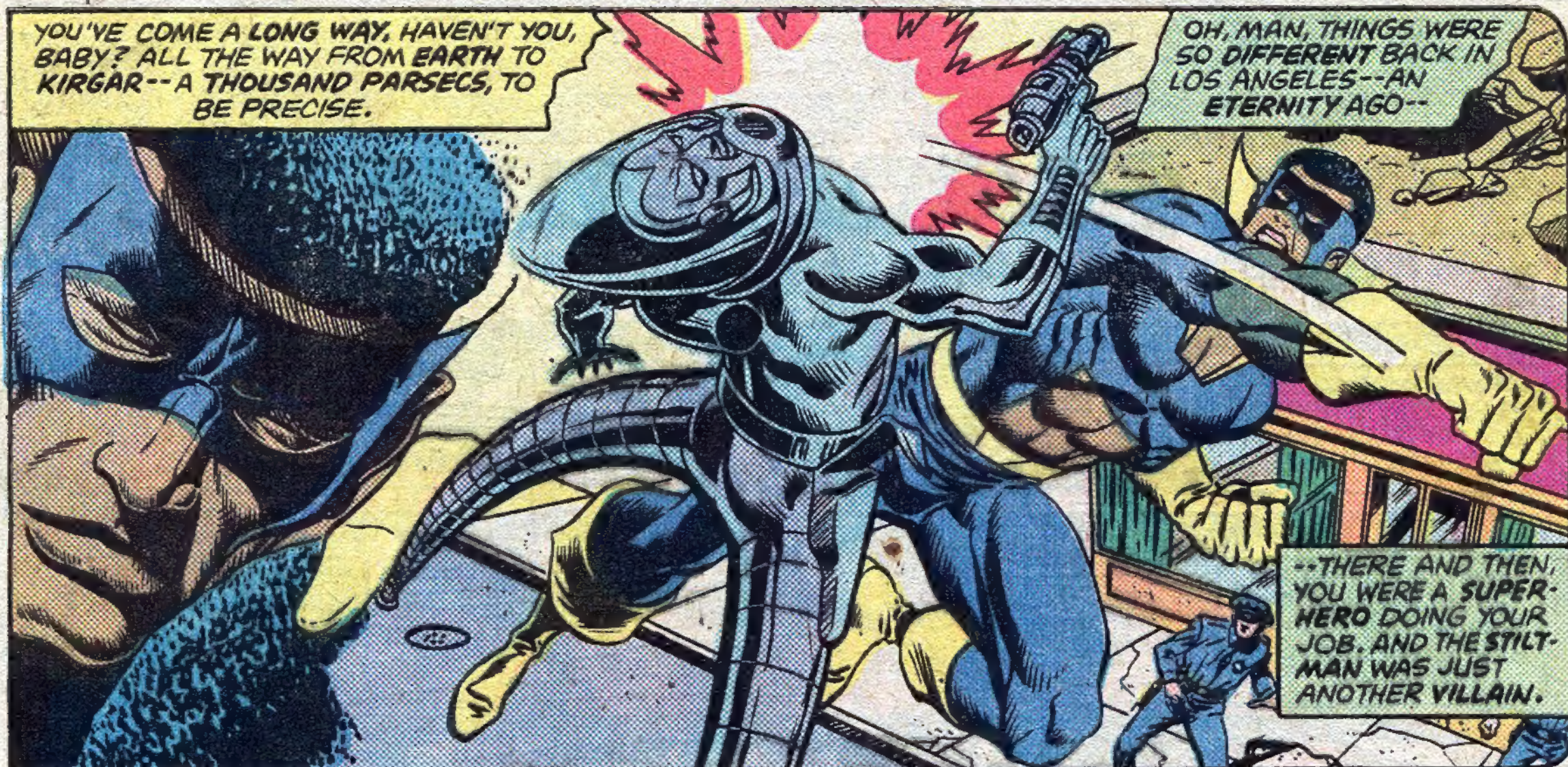
"...BLISTERING
HEAT BY DAY AND
HUMBLING COLD
AT NIGHT.

"IT IS A WORLD WHERE ALL THAT MATTERS IS...

SURVIVAL!

"AND IT WAS ON SHARRA'S
FORGE--THE CRUELEST
TERRAIN ON THIS CRUELEST
OF PLANETS (NAMED, IN
BITTER IRONY, FOR THE
MOTHER GODDESS OF LEGEND)--

"--THAT I FOUND THE TERRAIN,
BLACK GOLIATH, AND HIS
COMPANIONS.



YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, HAVEN'T YOU, BABY? ALL THE WAY FROM EARTH TO KIRGAR-- A THOUSAND PARSECS, TO BE PRECISE.

OH, MAN, THINGS WERE SO DIFFERENT BACK IN LOS ANGELES--AN ETERNITY AGO--

--THERE AND THEN, YOU WERE A SUPER-HERO DOING YOUR JOB. AND THE STILT-MAN WAS JUST ANOTHER VILLAIN.

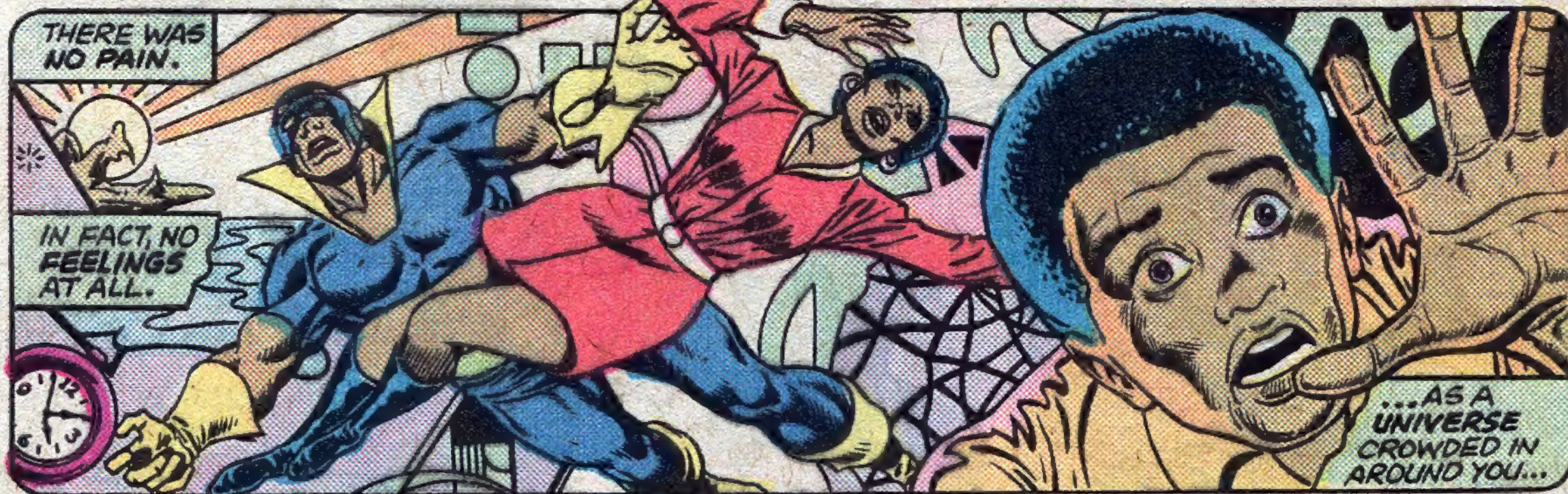


OR SO YOU THOUGHT...

FEEL THE AWESOME POWER OF THE STILT-MAN'S DEADLIEST CREATION--HIS INCOMPARABLE--

GOLIATH!

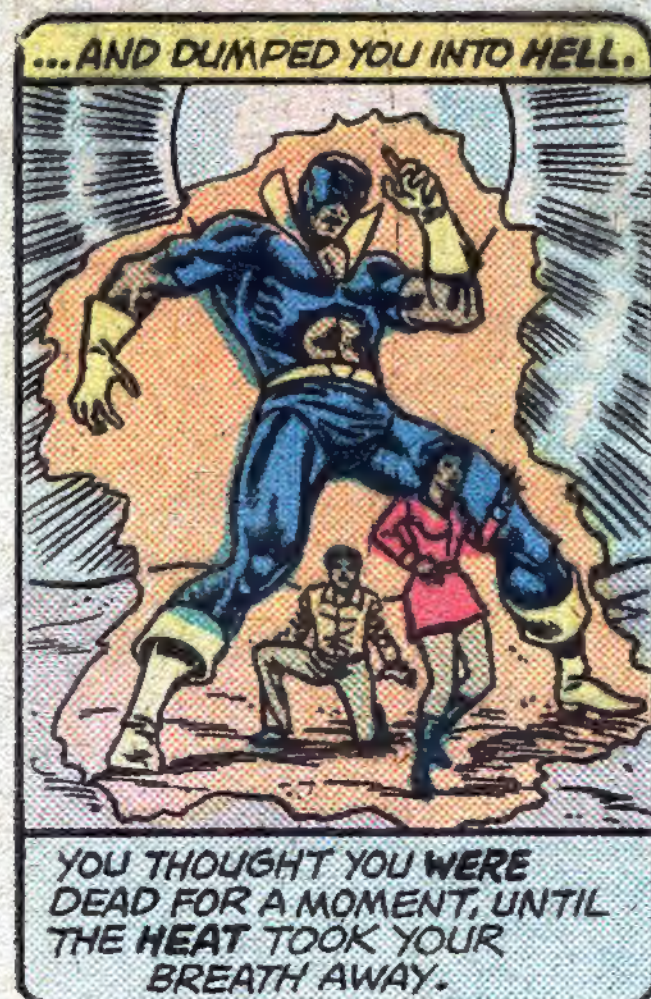
--Z-RAY!



THERE WAS NO PAIN.

IN FACT, NO FEELINGS AT ALL.

...AS A UNIVERSE CROWDED IN AROUND YOU...



LORD KNOWS HOW THE THREE OF YOU MANAGED TO SURVIVE THE DUST STORM THAT HIT AT THAT FIRST SUNSET.

...HOPING AGAINST HOPE THAT YOU'D FIND SHELTER SOON.

KNOWING THAT ANOTHER DAY IN THE OPEN...

YOU'D KEPT MOVING, SHIELDING CELIA'S AND KEITH'S BODIES WITH YOUR OWN...

...WOULD FINISH YOU ALL.



BUT FOR NOW, SLEEP IS THE IMPORTANT THING.

ASSUMING, OF COURSE, THAT YOU MAKE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT ALIVE.



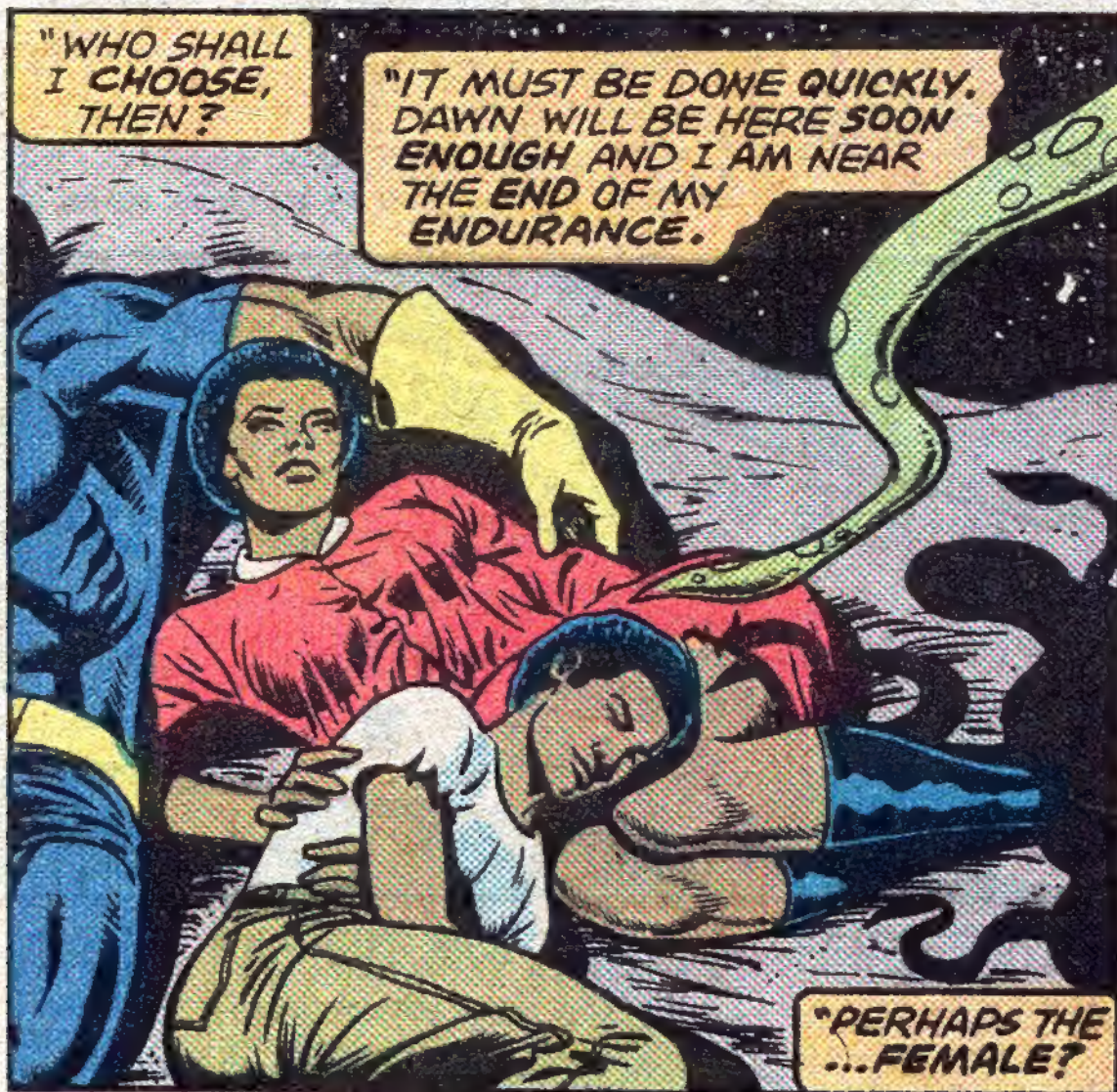
"DERATH'S LOG: THE ALIEN MAMMAL'S SKIN IS FIERY TO MY TOUCH--AND I SENSE GREAT VITALITY IN HIM..."

"PERHAPS HE WILL BE THE ONE.



"WAIT! HE STIRS IN HIS SLEEP!"

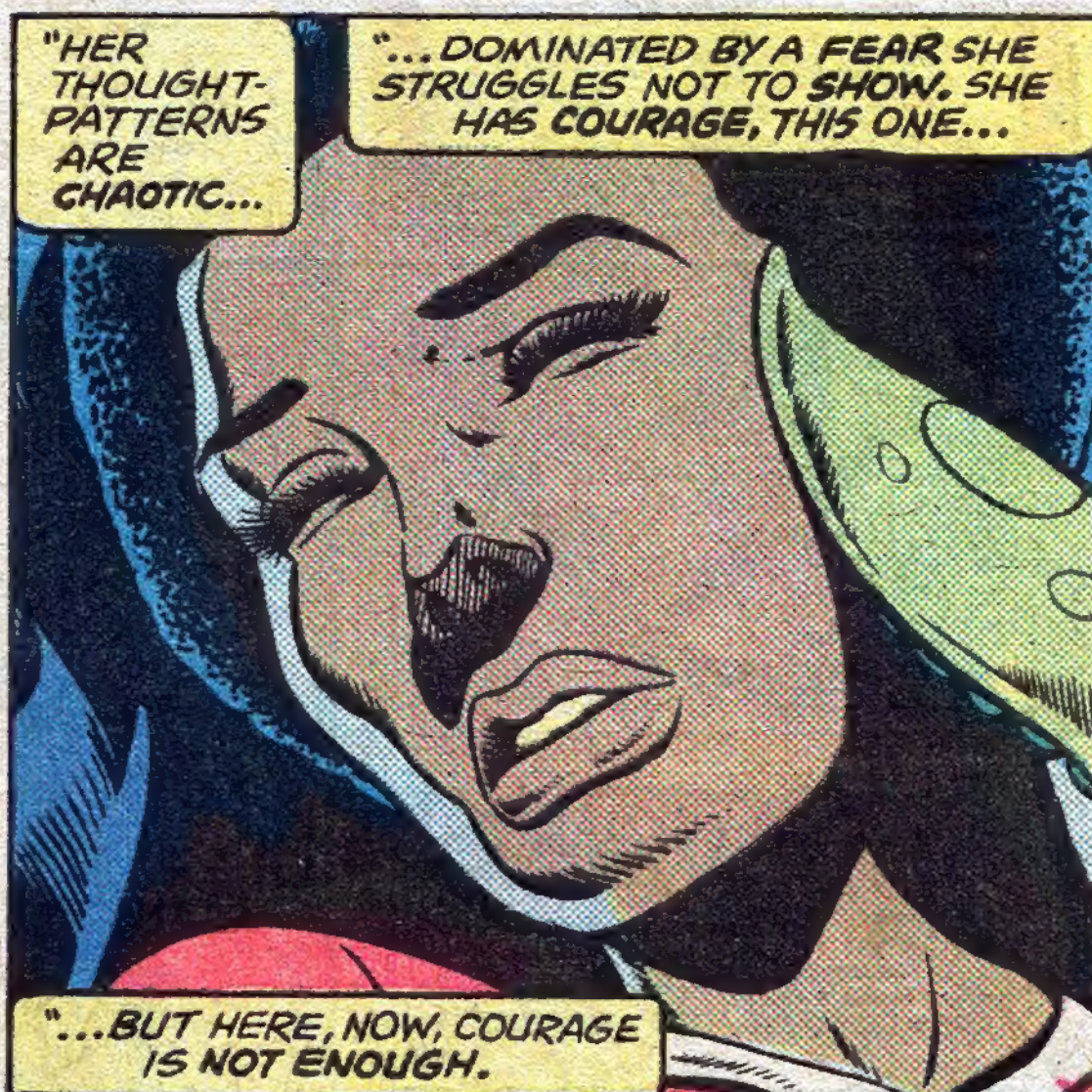
"BUT THAT IS ALL. I DARE NOT WAKE HIM--HIS STRENGTH AND POWER COULD REND ME LIMB FROM LIMB."



"WHO SHALL I CHOOSE, THEN?"

"IT MUST BE DONE QUICKLY. DAWN WILL BE HERE SOON ENOUGH AND I AM NEAR THE END OF MY ENDURANCE."

"PERHAPS THE ...FEMALE?"



"HER THOUGHT-PATTERNS ARE CHAOTIC..."

"...DOMINATED BY A FEAR SHE STRUGGLES NOT TO SHOW. SHE HAS COURAGE, THIS ONE..."

"...BUT HERE, NOW, COURAGE IS NOT ENOUGH."



"WHICH LEAVES THE BOY."

"HIS THOUGHT-PATTERNS ARE CLEAR, HIS MIND ADAPTABLE."

"IN ALL WAYS, THE IDEAL CHOICE."



"I WILL TAKE HIM!"

HEY...WHAT'S HAPP'NIN'...?



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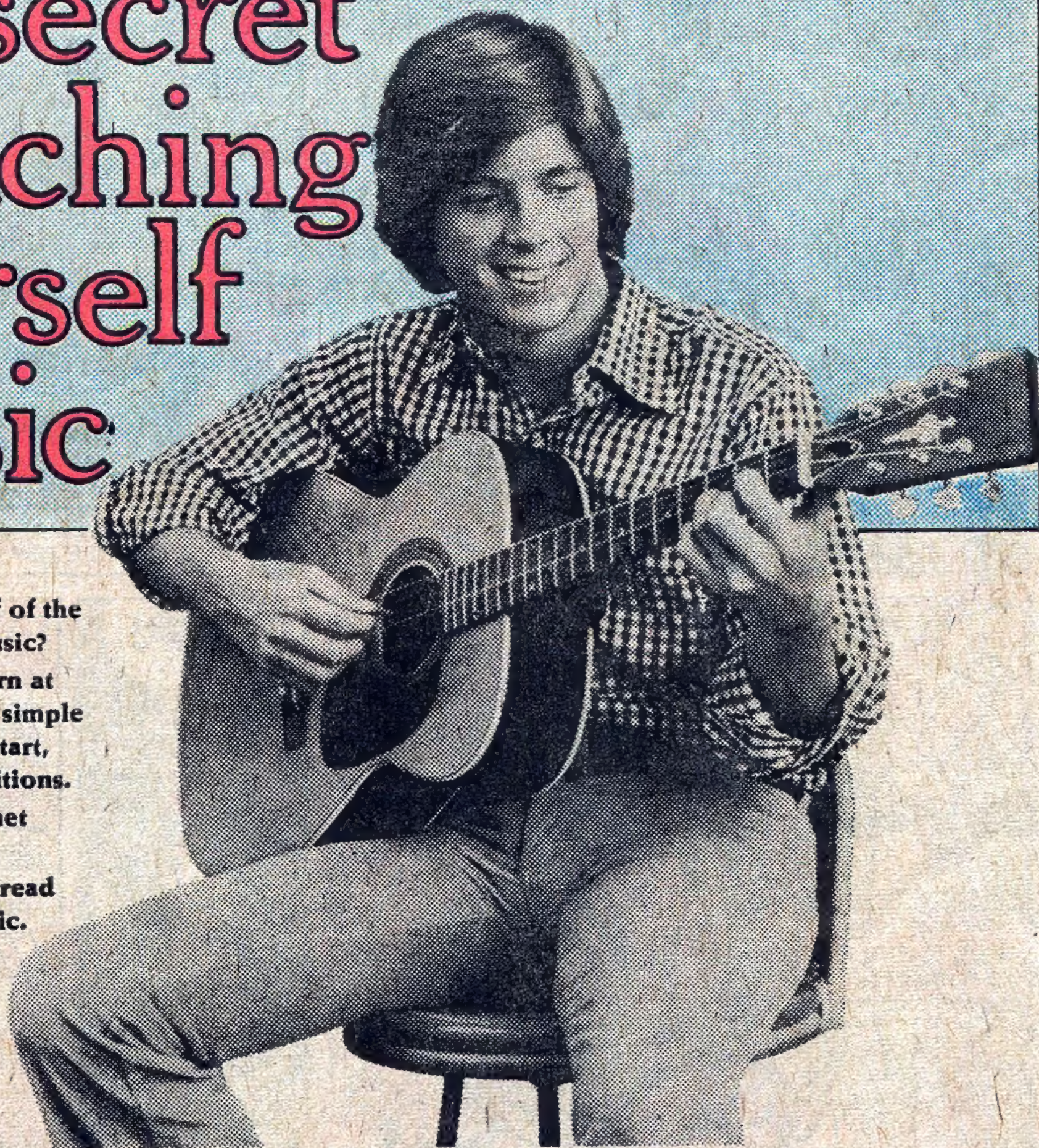
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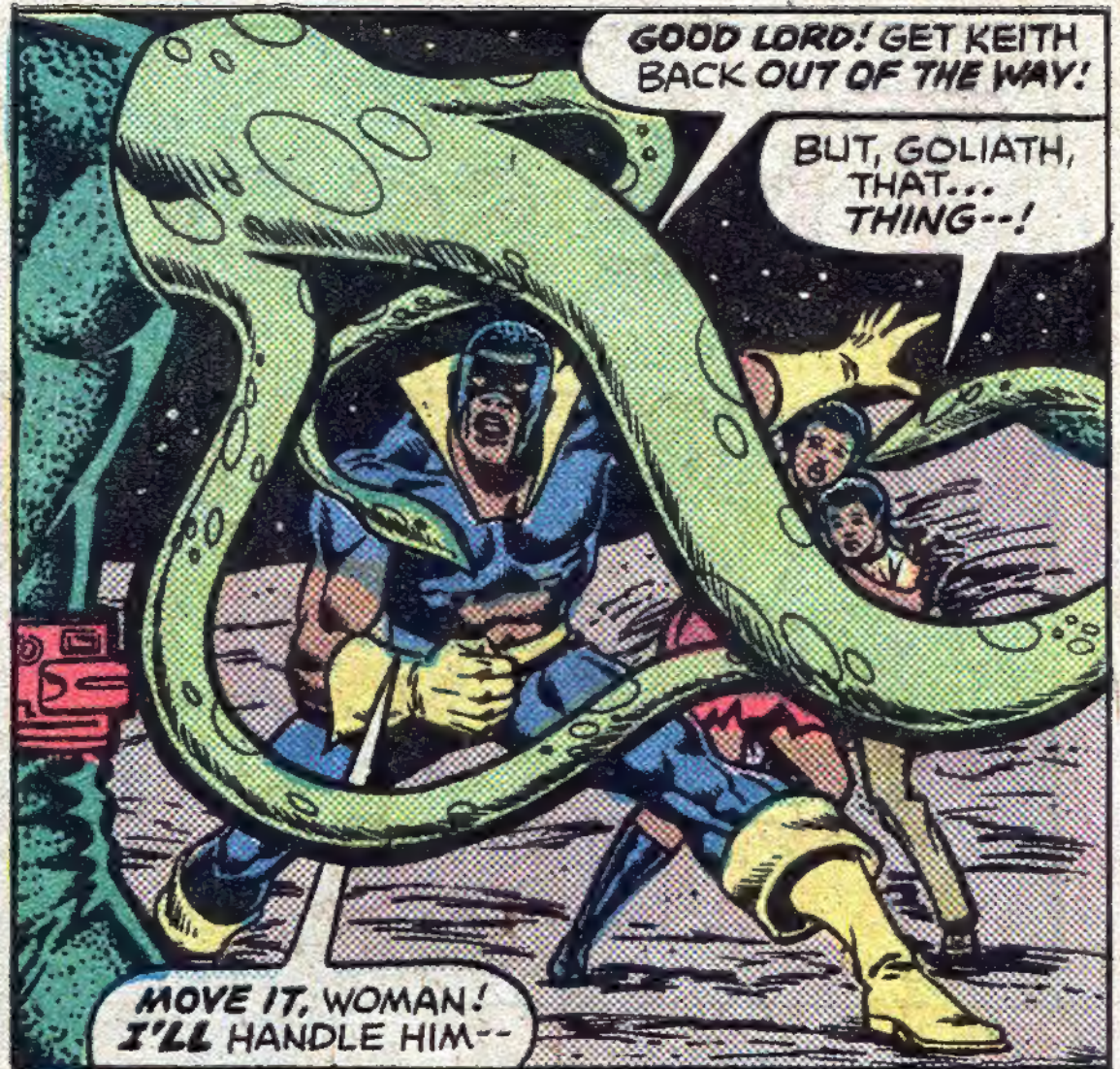
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"NOT ENOUGH TIME. I AM DISCOVERED..."

"...AND IN THEIR IGNORANCE, THE MAMMALS WILL DESTROY ME!"

IT'S A MONSTER!!



GOOD LORD! GET KEITH BACK OUT OF THE WAY!

BUT, GOLIATH, THAT... THING--!

MOVE IT, WOMAN! I'LL HANDLE HIM--



--BLACK GOLIATH STYLE!

"BY THE FIRST EGG, THE ALIEN IS A MONSTER!"

"BUT I MUST... COMMUNICATE WITH IT."

NO!

CJ: 3DU NO... KILL... I... LMO' TE X12 F... PLEASE!



HEAR ME... OUT... I BEG OF YOU.

...YOUR SPEECH... PAINFUL FOR ME...



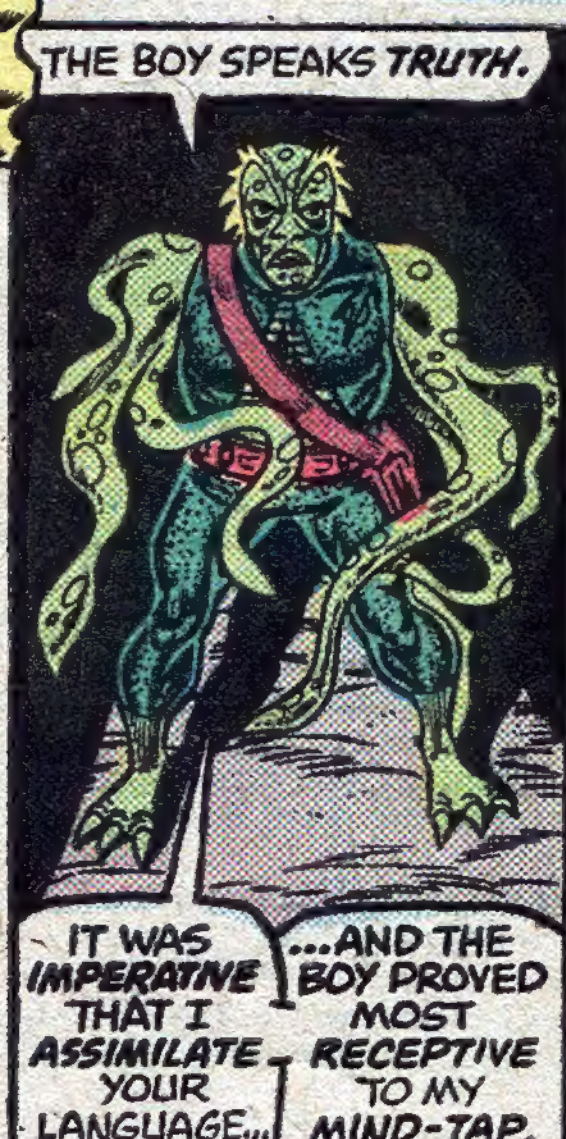
YOU... SPEAK ENGLISH?

NECESSARY. I COME IN PEACE.

THEN WHY'D YOU ATTACK THE BOY?



HE DIDN'T REALLY, GOLIATH. I YELLED 'CAUSE I WAS SCARED.



THE BOY SPEAKS TRUTH.

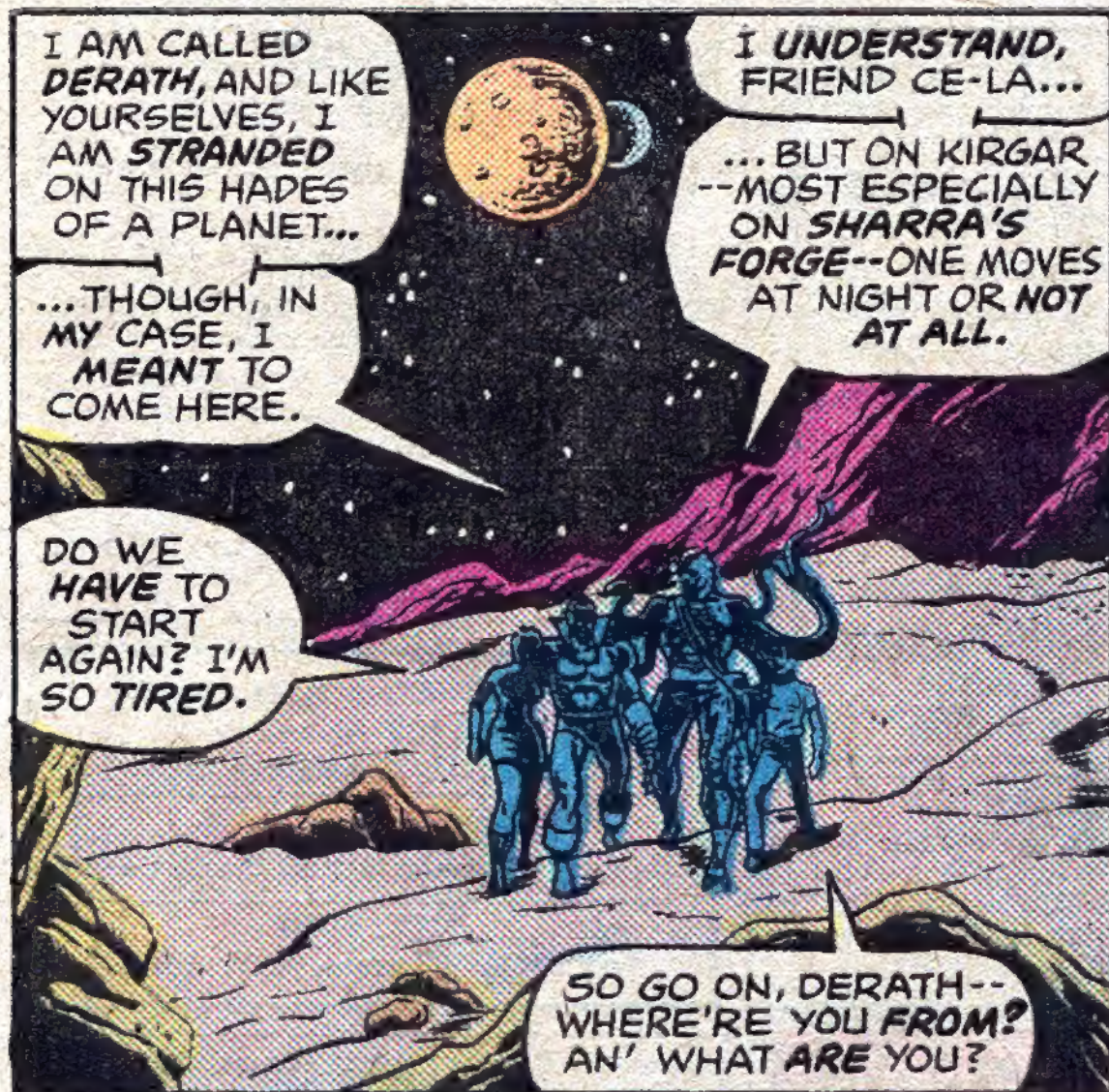
IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT I ASSIMILATE YOUR LANGUAGE...

...AND THE BOY PROVED MOST RECEPTIVE TO MY MIND-TAP.



MAYBE. MAYBE NOT. WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST COME FORWARD?

WERE OUR POSITIONS REVERSED, GO-LI-ATH... WOULD YOU HAVE COME OPENLY TO ME?



I AM CALLED **DERATH**, AND LIKE YOURSELVES, I AM **STRANDED** ON THIS **HADES** OF A PLANET...

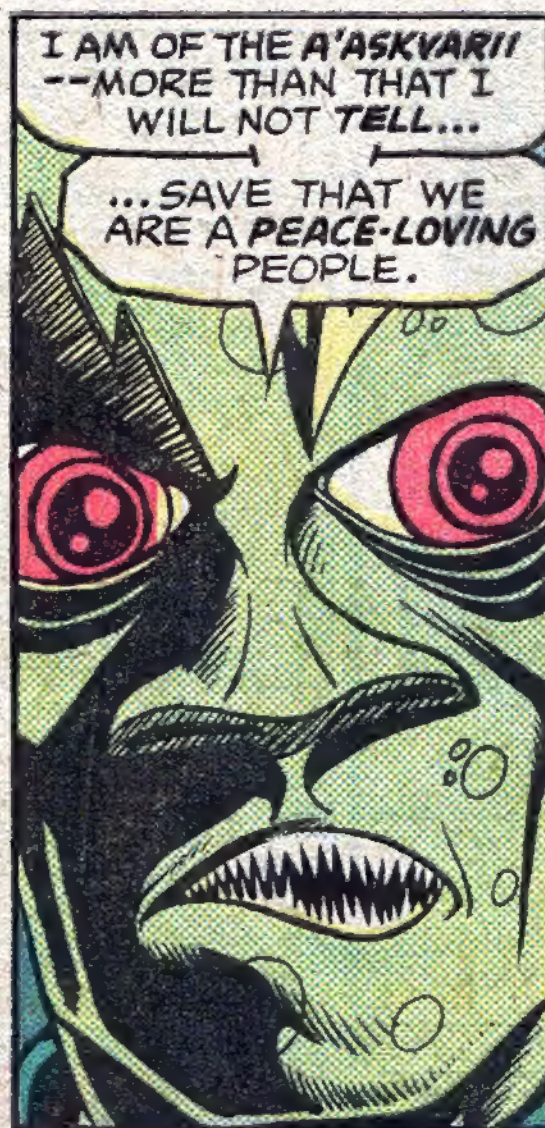
...THOUGH, IN MY CASE, I MEANT TO COME HERE.

DO WE HAVE TO START AGAIN? I'M SO TIRED.

I UNDERSTAND, FRIEND **CE-LA**...

...BUT ON **KIRGAR** --MOST ESPECIALLY ON **SHARRA'S FORGE**--ONE MOVES AT NIGHT OR NOT AT ALL.

SO GO ON, **DERATH**--WHERE'RE YOU FROM? AN' WHAT ARE YOU?



I AM OF THE **A'ASKVARII** --MORE THAN THAT I WILL NOT TELL...

...SAVE THAT WE ARE A **PEACE-LOVING** PEOPLE.



I AM AN **EXPLORER**, ONE WHO SEEKS LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS.

AN **INTER-STELLAR CULTURE!** THAT'S INCREDIBLE...



NOT REALLY. MINE IS A **MODEST RACE**, CONTENT TO LIVE IN THE **SHADOW** OF SUCH **IMPERIAL STATES**--

--AS **RIGEL** AND THE **KREE**. AND **KIRGAR**.

OH, YES, THIS **DUSTBALL** WAS ONCE THE **THRONE-WORLD** OF A MIGHTY EMPIRE WHICH COLLAPSED A **MILLION CYCLES** AGO...

...LEAVING ALL ITS GLORIOUS CITIES TO CRUMBLE INTO **DUST**.

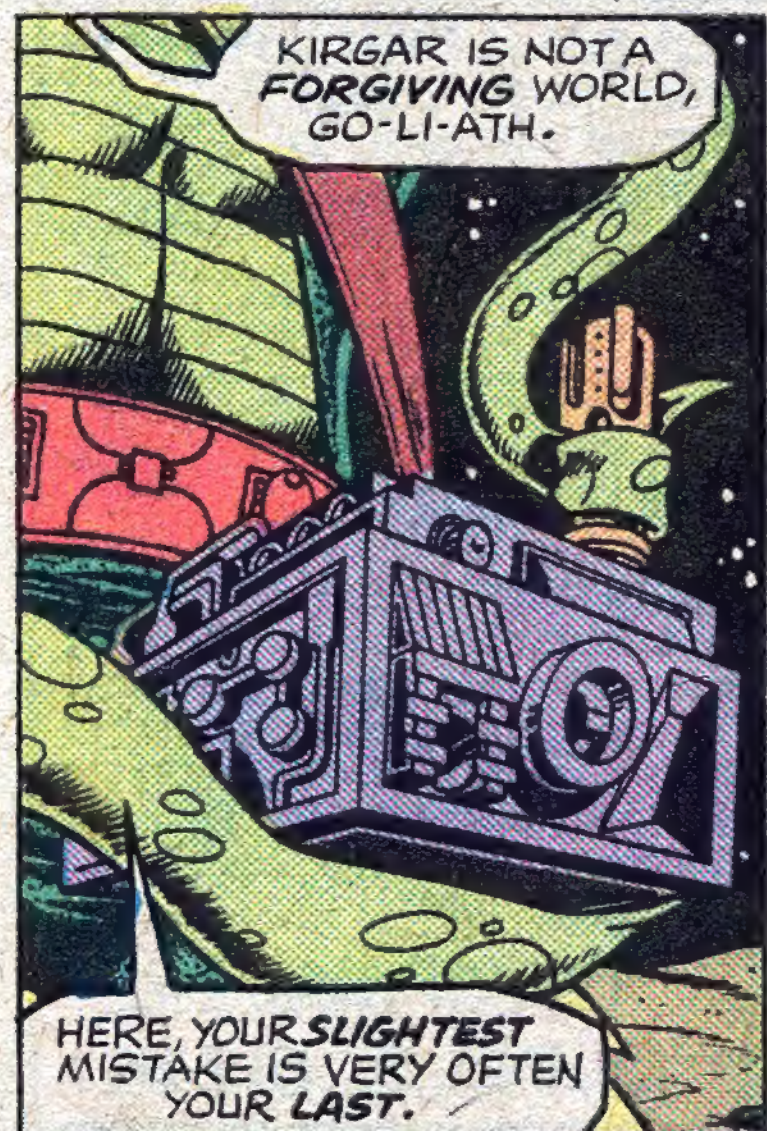


WOW.

"WOW", INDEED, **YOUNG KEITH**. EXCEPT THAT I--THE **FOREMOST SCOUT** IN THE **A'ASKVARII FLEET**--GOT **CARELESS** THIS TIME OUT...

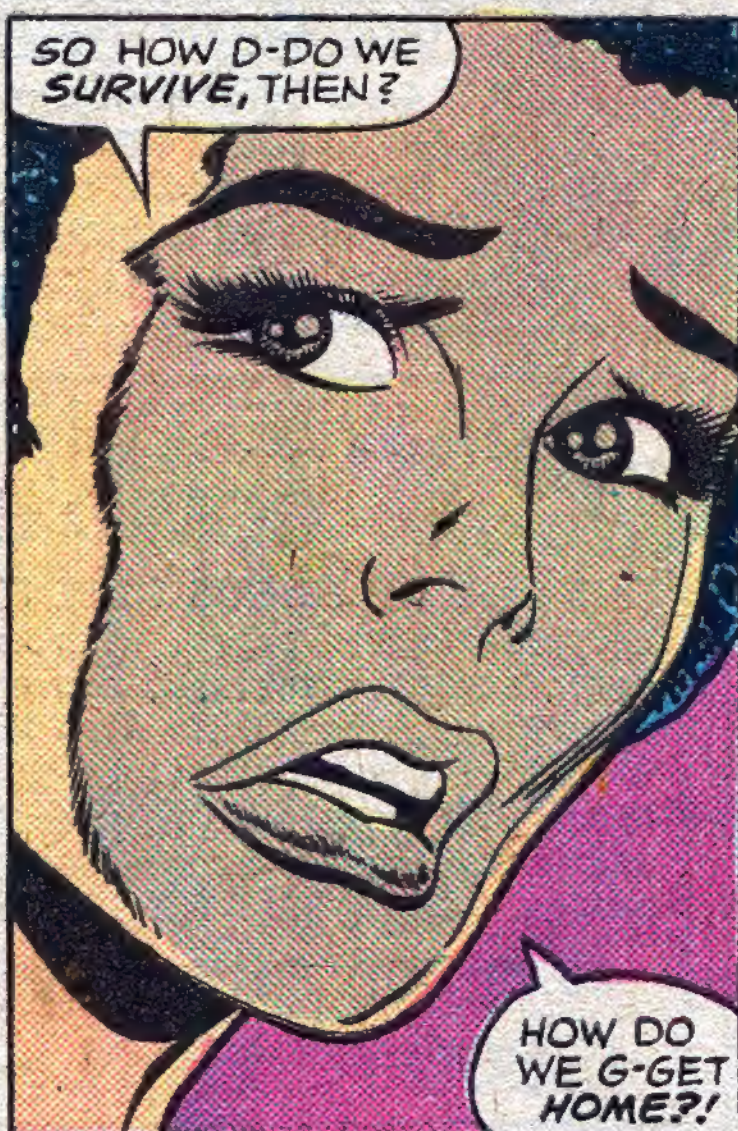
...AND **CRASHED**.

IT HAPPENS TO THE **BEST** OF US, **DERATH**.



KIRGAR IS NOT A **FORGIVING** WORLD, **GO-LI-ATH**.

HERE, YOUR **SLIGHTEST** MISTAKE IS VERY OFTEN YOUR **LAST**.



SO HOW D-DO WE **SURVIVE**, THEN?

HOW DO WE **G-GET HOME**?!



CELIA, EVERYTHING WILL BE **ALL RIGHT**, JUST YOU--WHAT?!

YOU'RE **SHIVERING**, **HON!**

WHY **SH-SHOULDN'T** I **B-BE SHIVERING**? IT-IT'S **COLD!**

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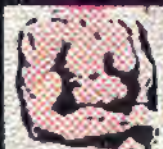


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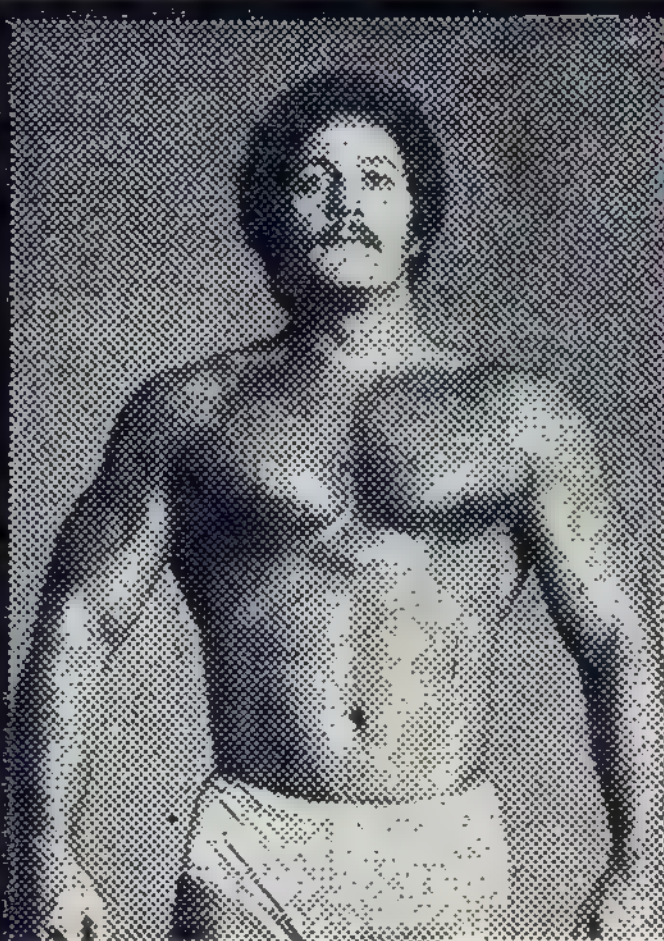
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"GAINS 14 POUNDS OF MUSCLE IN 14 DAYS"

I have gained 14 pounds in only 2 weeks. My arms and chest are much bigger.

Doug Elliott

"LOST 8" OFF HIS WAIST"

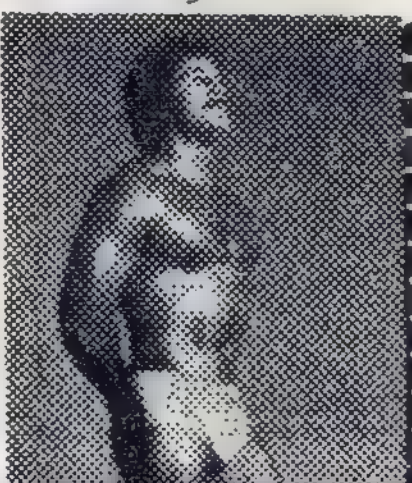
I knocked 8" off my waist and have lost 20 pounds of fat. I'm twice as strong.

R. Bonham

"GIRLS NOTICE HIM"

My arms are now 19", chest 51", thighs 26", and waist 32". All the girls notice me now.

T. B. Pinsonneault

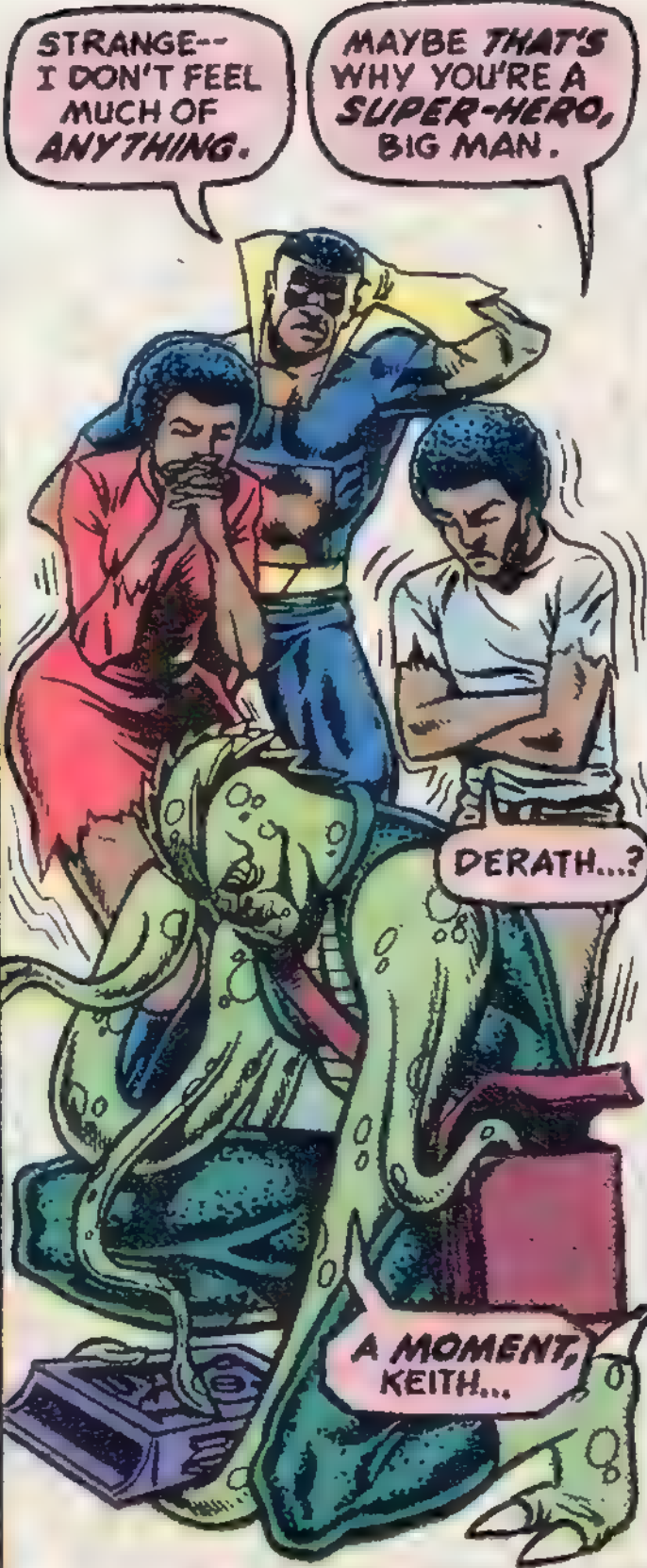




CURSE ME FOR A HATCHLING-- I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT--!

AFTER ALL, I'VE MET ENOUGH MAMMALS IN MY TIME TO LEARN THAT YOU'RE SUSCEPTIBLE TO TEMPERATURE EXTREMES..

...THOUGH NOT AS MUCH AS I.

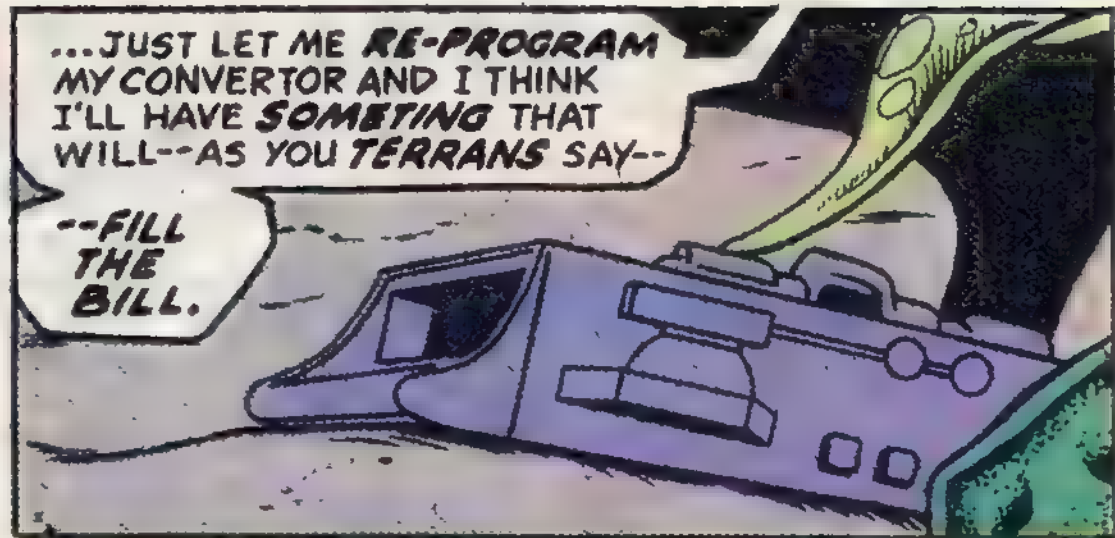


STRANGE-- I DON'T FEEL MUCH OF ANYTHING.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU'RE A SUPER-HERO, BIG MAN.

DERATH...?

A MOMENT, KEITH...

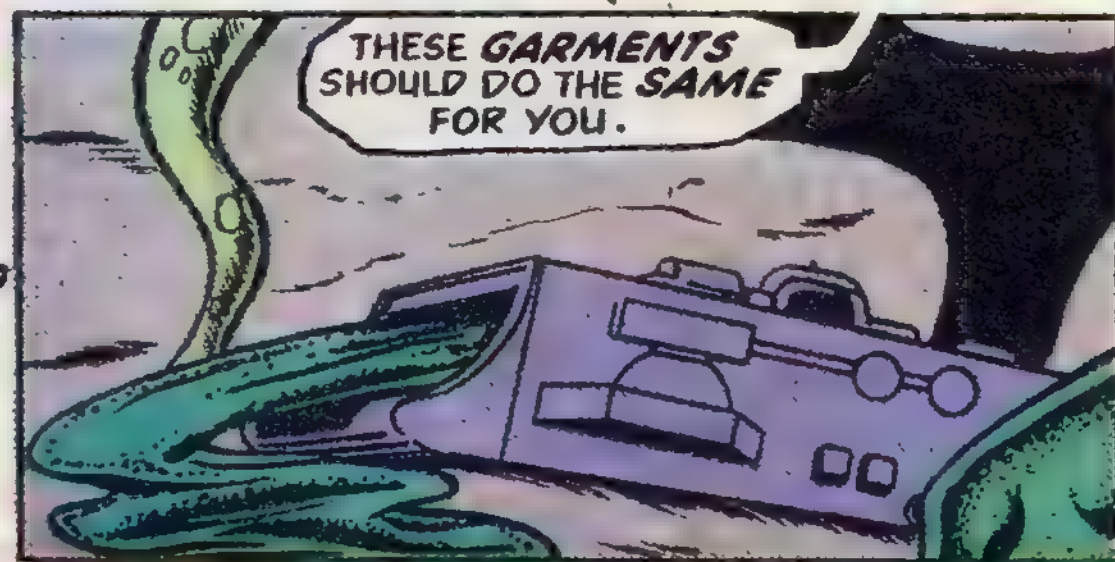


...JUST LET ME RE-PROGRAM MY CONVERTOR AND I THINK I'LL HAVE SOMETHING THAT WILL--AS YOU TERRANS SAY--

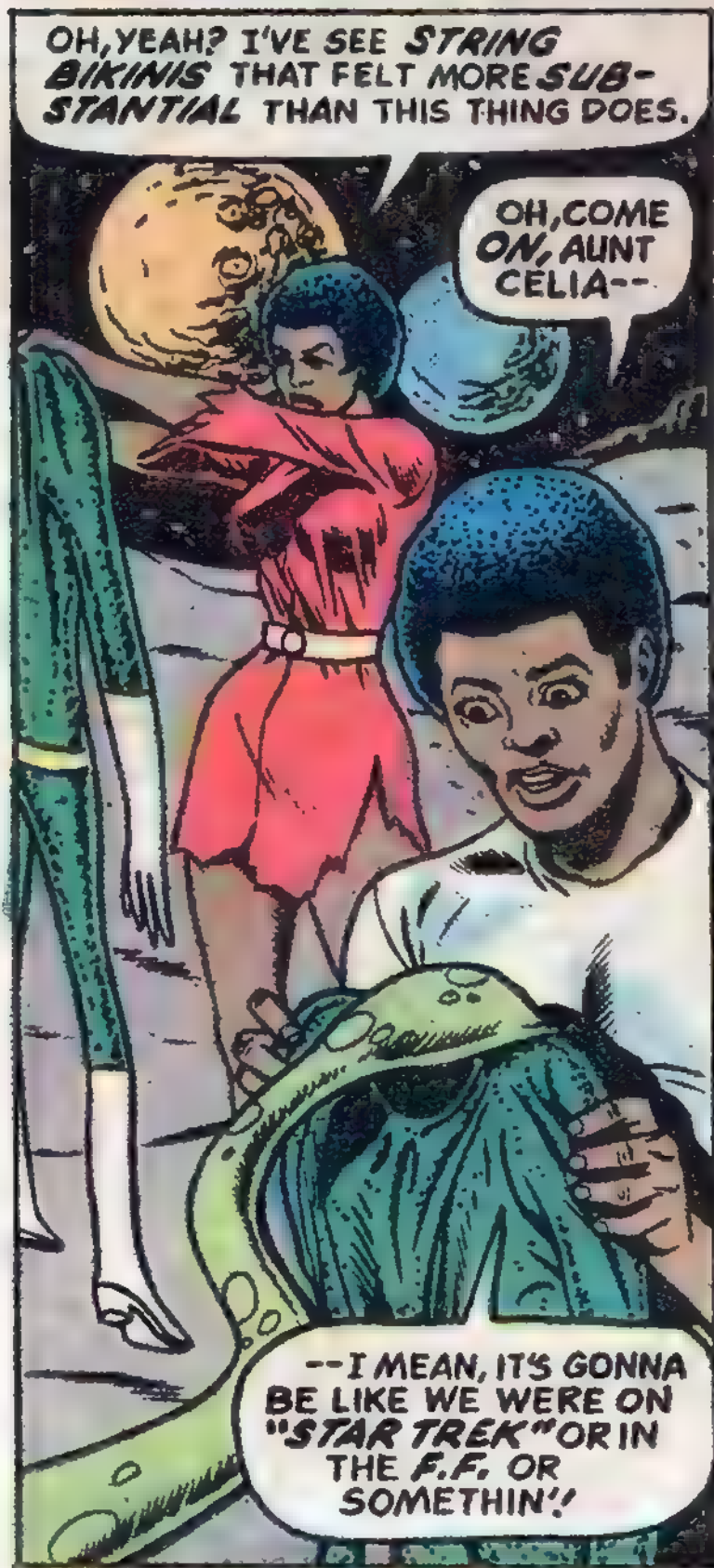
--FILL THE BILL.



IN MY CASE, THE CONVERTOR PROVIDED ME WITH A MOLECULE-THICK SKINSUIT THAT PRESERVES MY BODY'S ESSENTIAL MOISTURE.



THESE GARMENTS SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR YOU.



OH, YEAH? I'VE SEEN STRING BIKINIS THAT FELT MORE SUBSTANTIAL THAN THIS THING DOES.

OH, COME ON, AUNT CELIA--

--I MEAN, IT'S GONNA BE LIKE WE WERE ON "STAR TREK" OR IN THE F.F. OR SOMETHIN'!



THAT BOY IS UNBELIEVABLE.

HERE WE ARE, STUCK HEAVEN KNOWS WHERE IN THE UNIVERSE--

--BEFRIENDING SOME BUG-EYED-MONSTER THAT LOOKS LIKE A REFUGEE FROM "CREATURE FEATURES"--

--AND MY NEPHEW IS HAVING THE TIME OF HIS LIFE.



WELL, THIS THING FITS, I'LL GIVE IT THAT...

LIKE A SECOND SKIN.

ON THE PLUS SIDE, AMAZINGLY ENOUGH, IT DOES KEEP OUT THE COLD.

ENOUGH MUSING, LADY--TIME YOU WERE GETTING BACK, BEFORE...



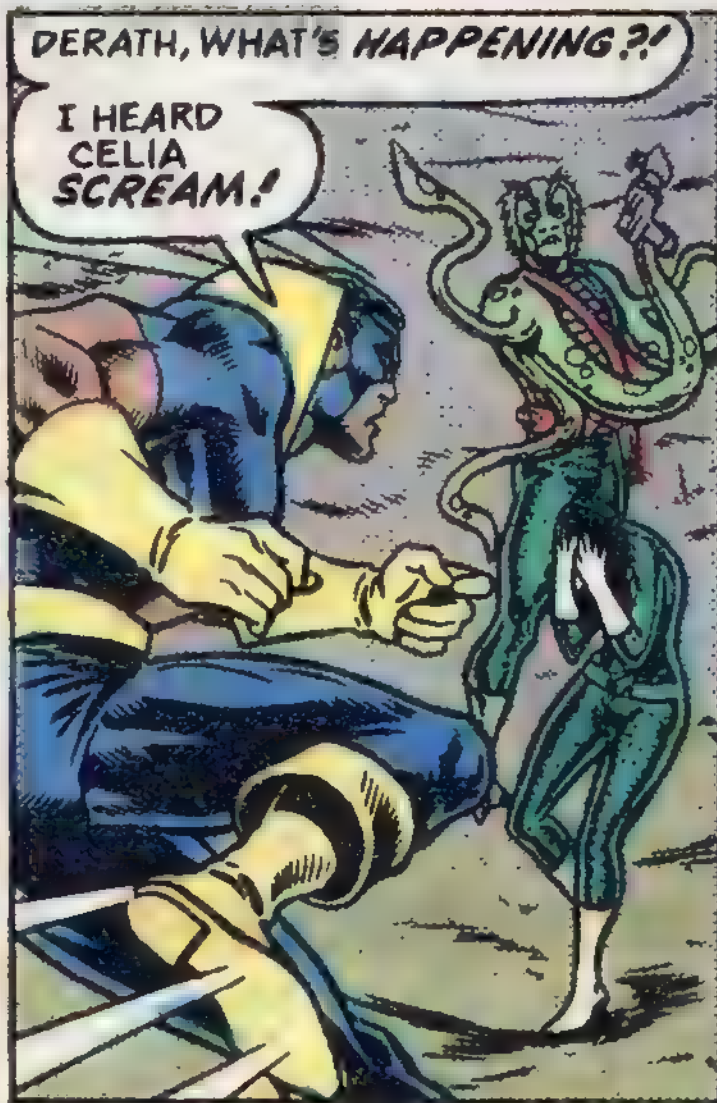
...IT'S TOO LATE, MS. JACKSON?

OH, MY GOD!

No!



GOLIATH!



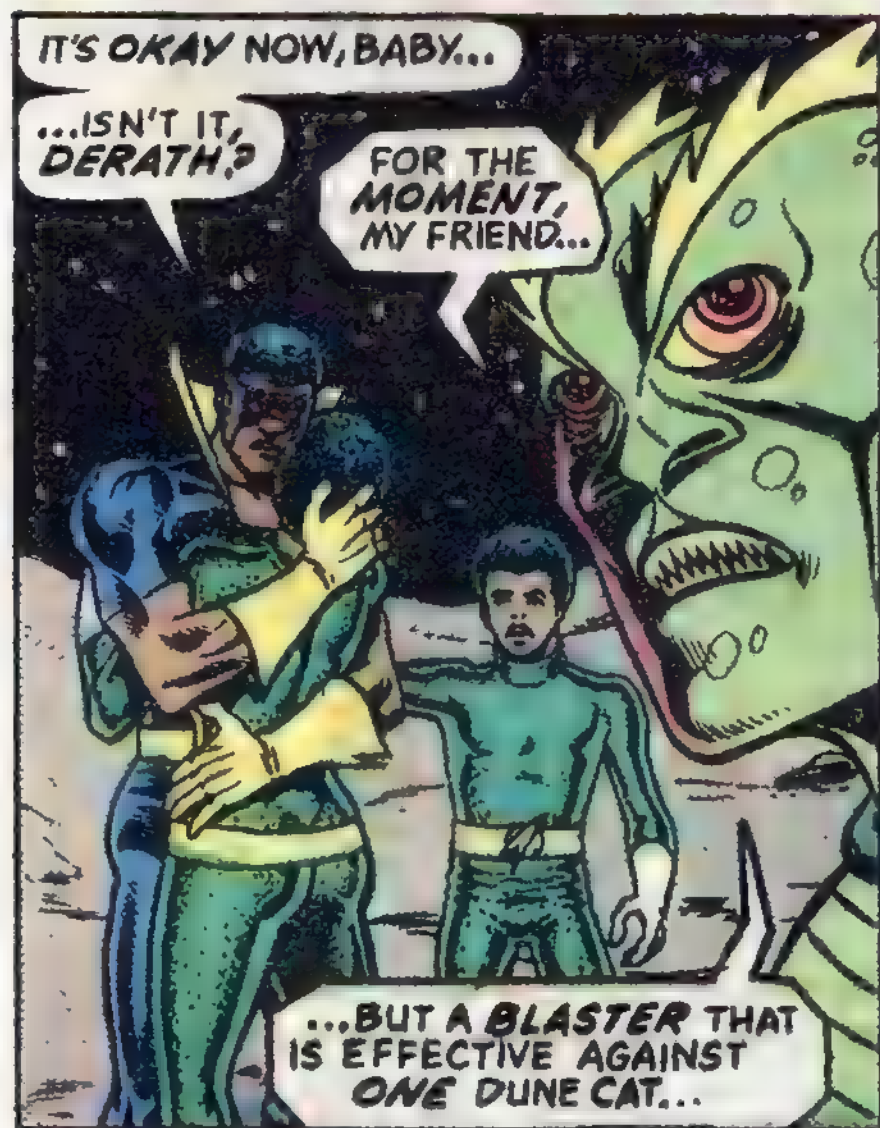
DERATH, WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

I HEARD CELIA SCREAM!



OH, GOLIATH, IT WAS HOR-HORRIBLE! THAT CAT... ITS CLAWS SO... CLOSE.

HOLD ME, GOLIATH... PLEASE...



IT'S OKAY NOW, BABY...

...ISN'T IT, DERATH?

FOR THE MOMENT, MY FRIEND...

...BUT A BLASTER THAT IS EFFECTIVE AGAINST ONE DUNE CAT...



...IS RARELY EFFECTIVE AGAINST A PACK OF THEM.

WE BEST BE ON OUR WAY.



YOU KNOW, MY TERRAN FRIENDS, IT IS A GOOD THING WE FOUND EACH OTHER.

WITHOUT ME, YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN OF A POSSIBLE WAY HOME FOR THE FOUR OF US--ONE I WILL GLADLY SHARE WITH YOU--

--BUT WITHOUT GOLIATH'S POWER AND ENDURANCE, I AM SURE I WOULD HAVE PERISHED LONG BEFORE I REACH MY--NOW, OUR--GOAL.

TAKE HULK BACK TO SCHOOL WITH YOU

YOU GET!



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1 WIRE-BOUND THEME BOOK

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M-10 FANTASTIC FOUR M-11 CAPTAIN AMERICA
M-12 IRON MAN
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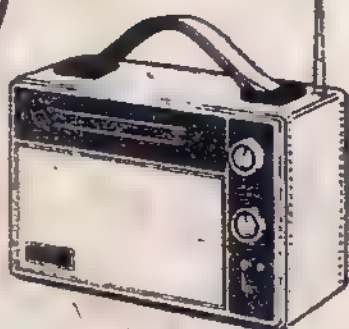
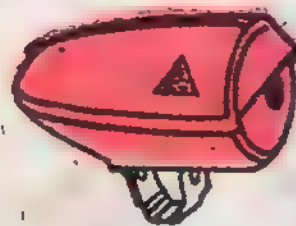
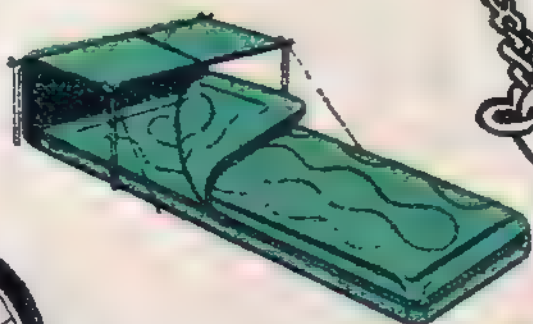
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An illustration of three sports-related items. At the top left is a baseball bat with a dark, textured barrel and a white handle with black rings. To its right is a silver and black video camera with a black strap. At the bottom right is a football helmet with a green shell and a rainbow-colored stripe, with a white face mask.

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A black and white photograph of a young boy with dark hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. He is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved button-down shirt. He is holding up a newspaper clipping in his right hand and a small photograph in his left hand. The newspaper clipping has some text and a small image, but it is difficult to read. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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[illegible]

MEANWHILE, BACK ON EARTH, THINGS ARE, AS THE SAYING GOES, JUMPING...

-- STILT-MAN CONTINUED HIS ONE-MAN CRIME WAVE TODAY...

NB
NEWS

RIGHT ON, BRO--

--HIT THEM PIGS WHERE IT HURTS!

...LOOTING THREE MAJOR BANKS IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA...

...ESCAPING UNSCATHED EACH TIME DESPITE MASSIVE POLICE EFFORTS TO APPREHEND HIM.

IN OTHER NEWS...

DON' CARE 'BOUT NO NEWS, MAN--

--ALL JOLTIN' JERRY WASHINGTON CARES ABOUT IS THIS BOX...

...THAT'S GONNA MAKE HIM RICH AS SIN.

AS SOON AS I GET IT-- OPEN!

HEY! I DID IT!

TOP SECRET
DO NOT OPEN
WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION
STARK INTERNATIONAL

NOW T' SEE WHAT'S INSIDE.

SOME KINDA LIGHT-- SHOOTIN' OUTTA THE BOX--

--SO BRIGHT! IT'S BLINDIN' ME!

MY EYES!!

EV'RYTHIN'S GONE BLACK! I CAN'T SEE!!

HELP ME! SOMEBODY!

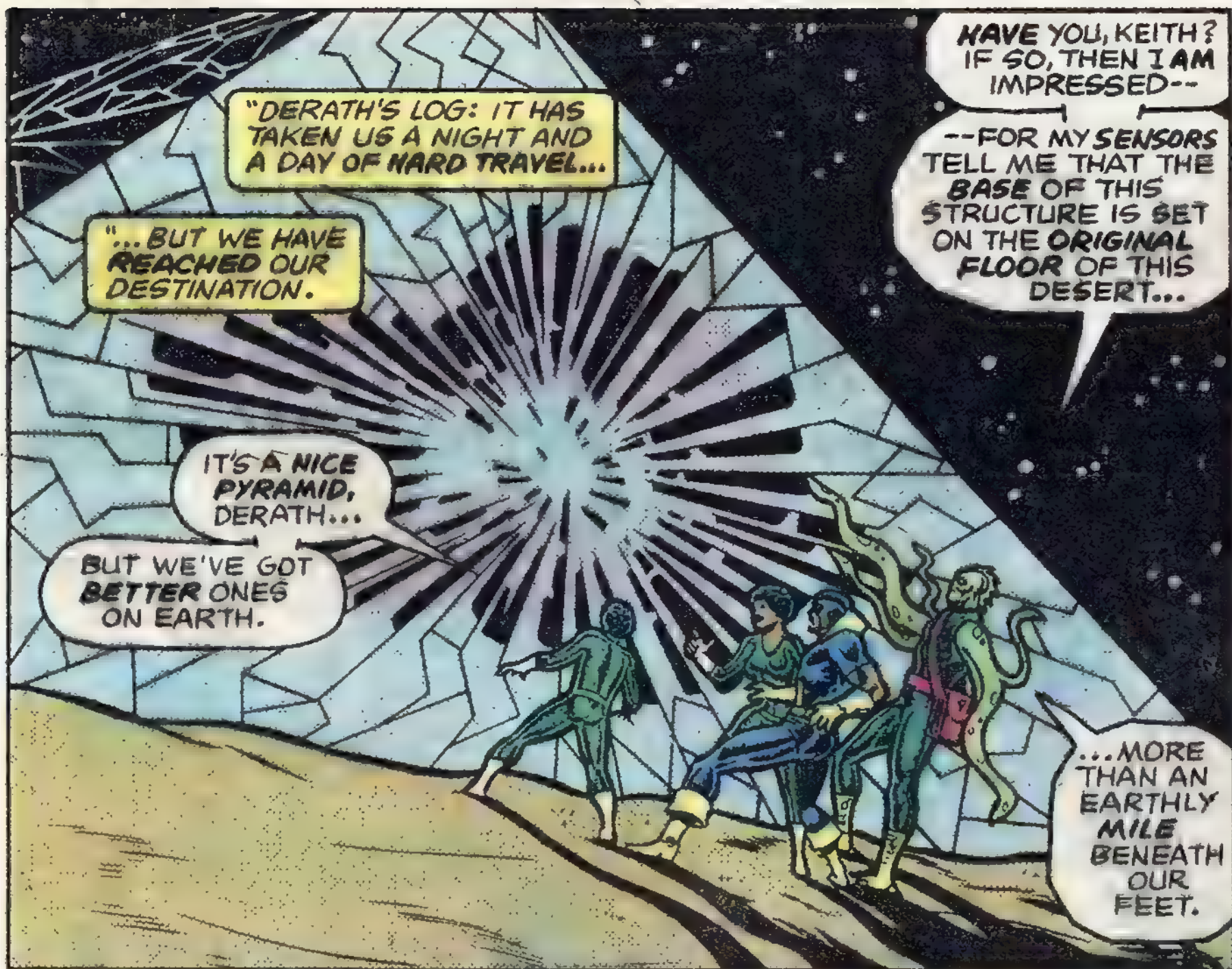
OH, LORD, OH LORD...

...A STAR-BORN BRILLIANCE THAT INEXORABLY ENGULFS THE ENTIRE ROOM...

...EVERYTHING IN THAT ROOM...

...ONLY TO FADE AWAY TO NOTHING... AS IF IT HAD NEVER BEEN.

LIGHT--GROWING FROM SOMEWHERE INSIDE THE BOX...



"DERATH'S LOG: IT HAS TAKEN US A NIGHT AND A DAY OF HARD TRAVEL...

"...BUT WE HAVE REACHED OUR DESTINATION.

IT'S A NICE PYRAMID, DERATH...

BUT WE'VE GOT BETTER ONES ON EARTH.

HAVE YOU, KEITH? IF SO, THEN I AM IMPRESSED--

--FOR MY SENSORS TELL ME THAT THE BASE OF THIS STRUCTURE IS SET ON THE ORIGINAL FLOOR OF THIS DESERT...

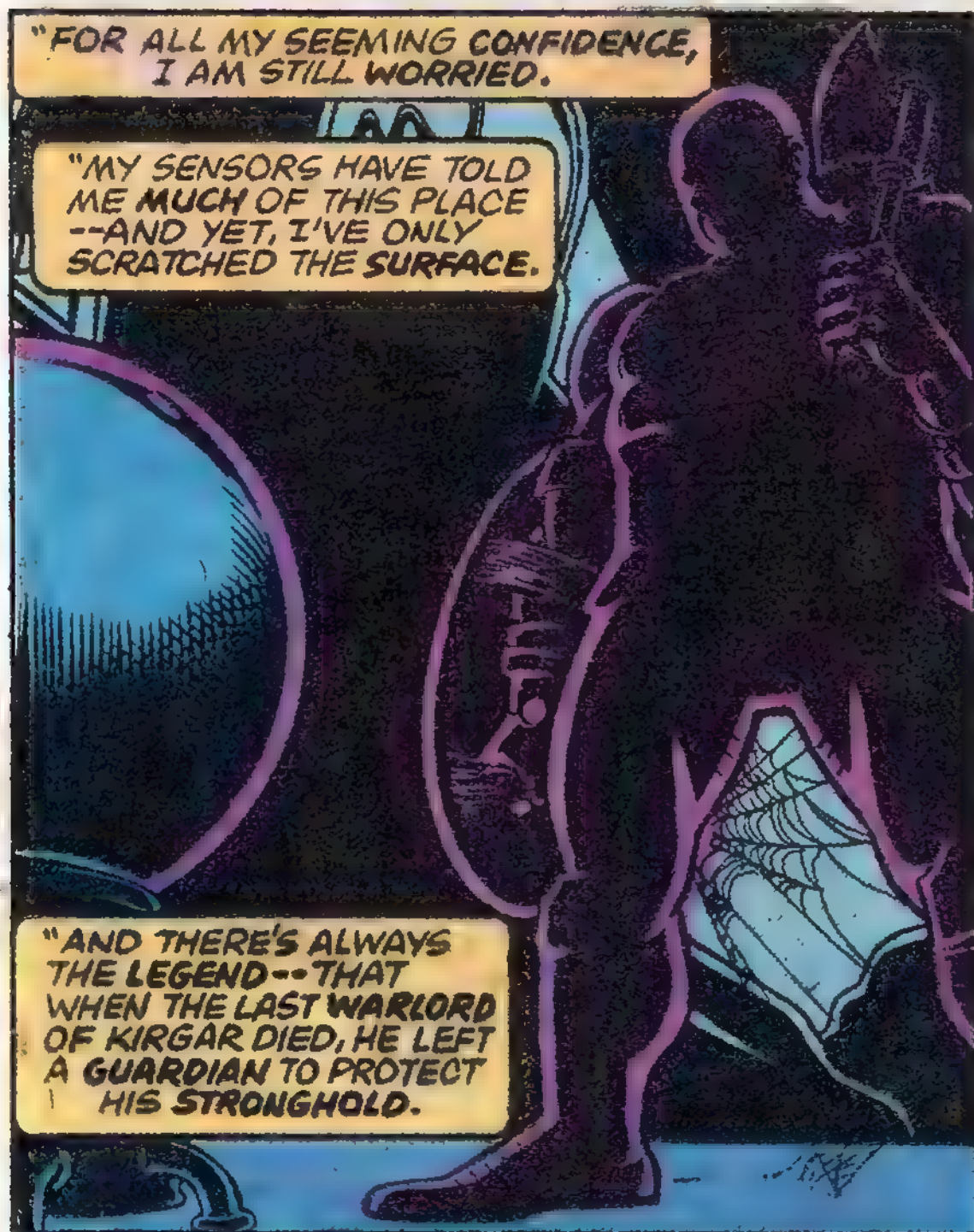
...MORE THAN AN EARTHLY MILE BENEATH OUR FEET.



IT HAS STOOD INVIOLETE FOR TEN THOUSAND CENTURIES.

IT SHALL REMAIN SO NO LONGER.

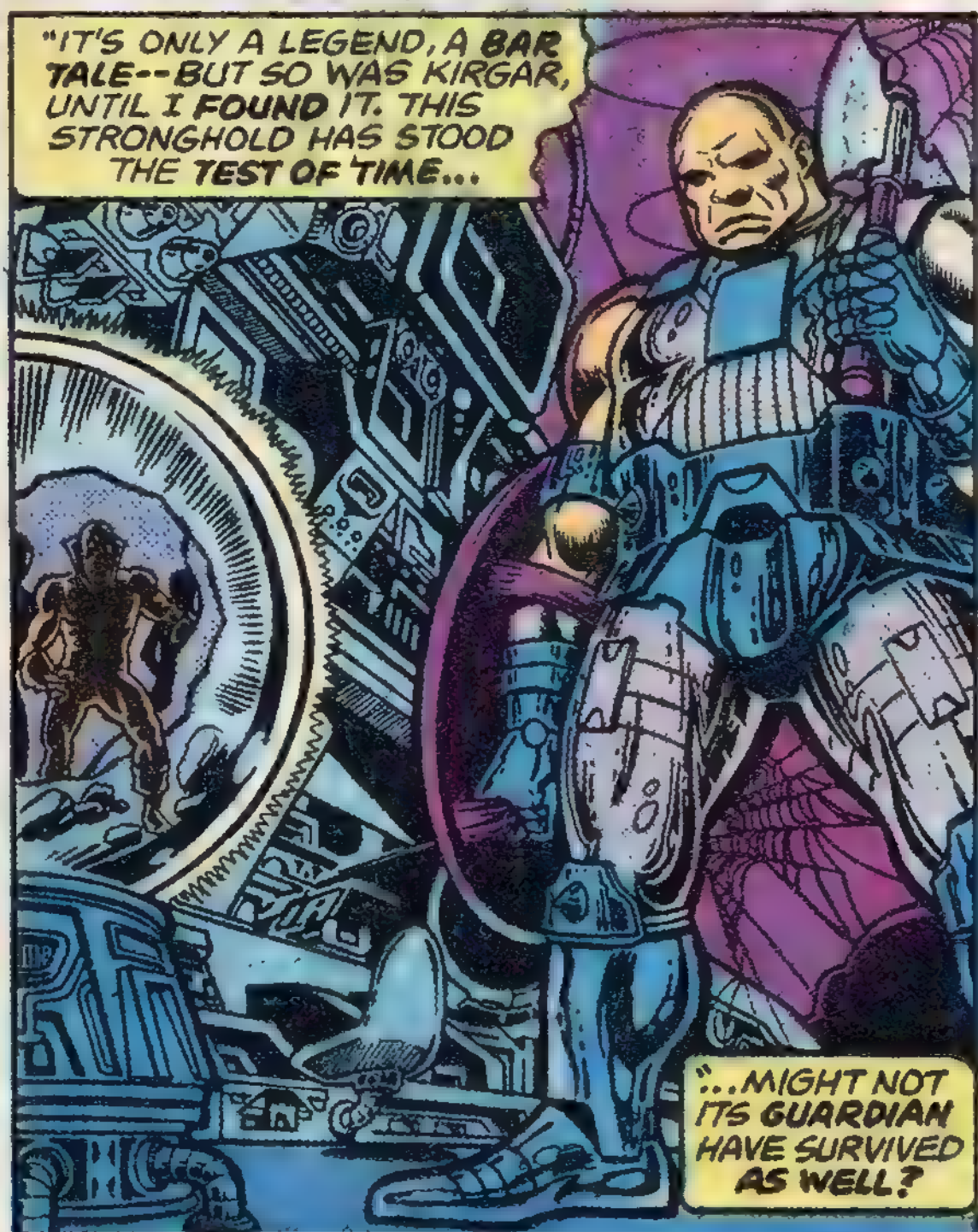
ZRAK!



"FOR ALL MY SEEMING CONFIDENCE, I AM STILL WORRIED.

"MY SENSORS HAVE TOLD ME MUCH OF THIS PLACE --AND YET, I'VE ONLY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE.

"AND THERE'S ALWAYS THE LEGEND--THAT WHEN THE LAST WARLORD OF KIRGAR DIED, HE LEFT A GUARDIAN TO PROTECT HIS STRONGHOLD.



"IT'S ONLY A LEGEND, A BAR TALE--BUT SO WAS KIRGAR, UNTIL I FOUND IT. THIS STRONGHOLD HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME...

"...MIGHT NOT ITS GUARDIAN HAVE SURVIVED AS WELL?



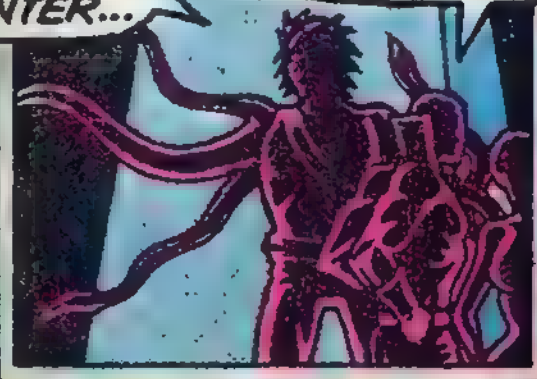
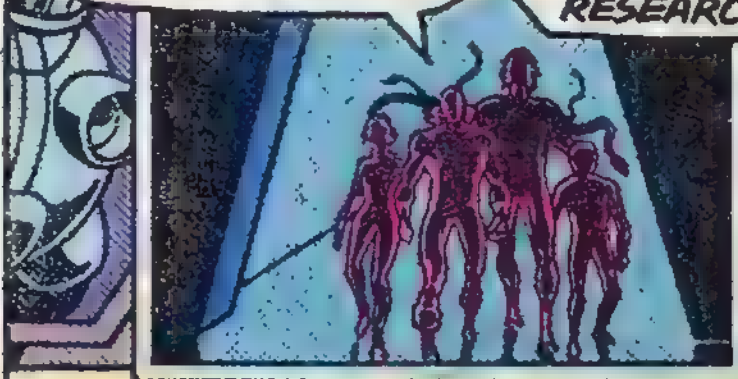
SO WHERE ARE WE, DERATH? WE'VE BEEN WALKING THRU THIS PLACE FOR HOURS.

ACCORDING TO MY SENSORS, WE SHOULD BE IN THE STRONGHOLD'S PRIMARY RESEARCH CENTER...

A LOT OF GOOD THAT'S GOING TO DO US WITH NO LIGHTS AND NO POWER...

IS THAT IS ALL THAT TROUBLES YOU, MY FRIEND?

THEN WHY DON'T I TURN THEM ON?



ZKLEAK!



MY...GOD...

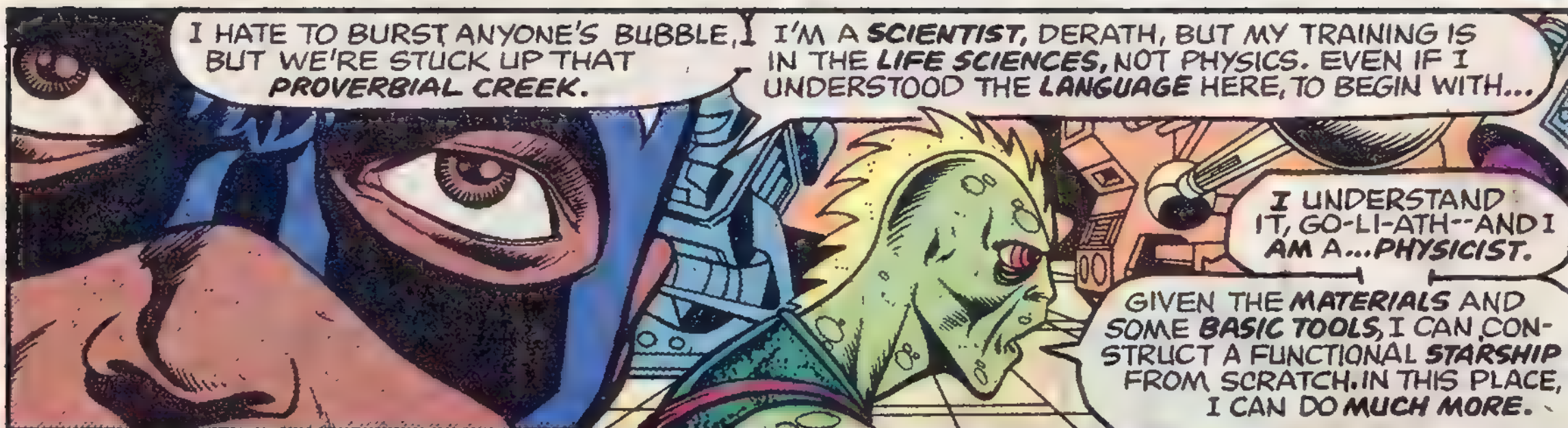


"DERATH'S LOG: I HAD EXPECTED MUCH, FROM THE SENSOR SCANS I HAD MADE FROM ORBIT BEFORE MY CRASH...

"...BUT WHAT MY COMPANIONS AND I FOUND TOOK EVEN MY BREATH AWAY.

"KILOMETER UPON CUBIC KILOMETER OF MACHINERY AND INSTRUMENTATION, STRETCHING OFF INTO EVERY DIRECTION, ALL FUNCTIONING AS PERFECTLY TODAY-- AFTER AEONS OF INACTIVITY-- AS ON THE DAY THEY WERE FIRST ACTIVATED.

"TRULY, THIS IS A DISCOVERY BEYOND PRICE.

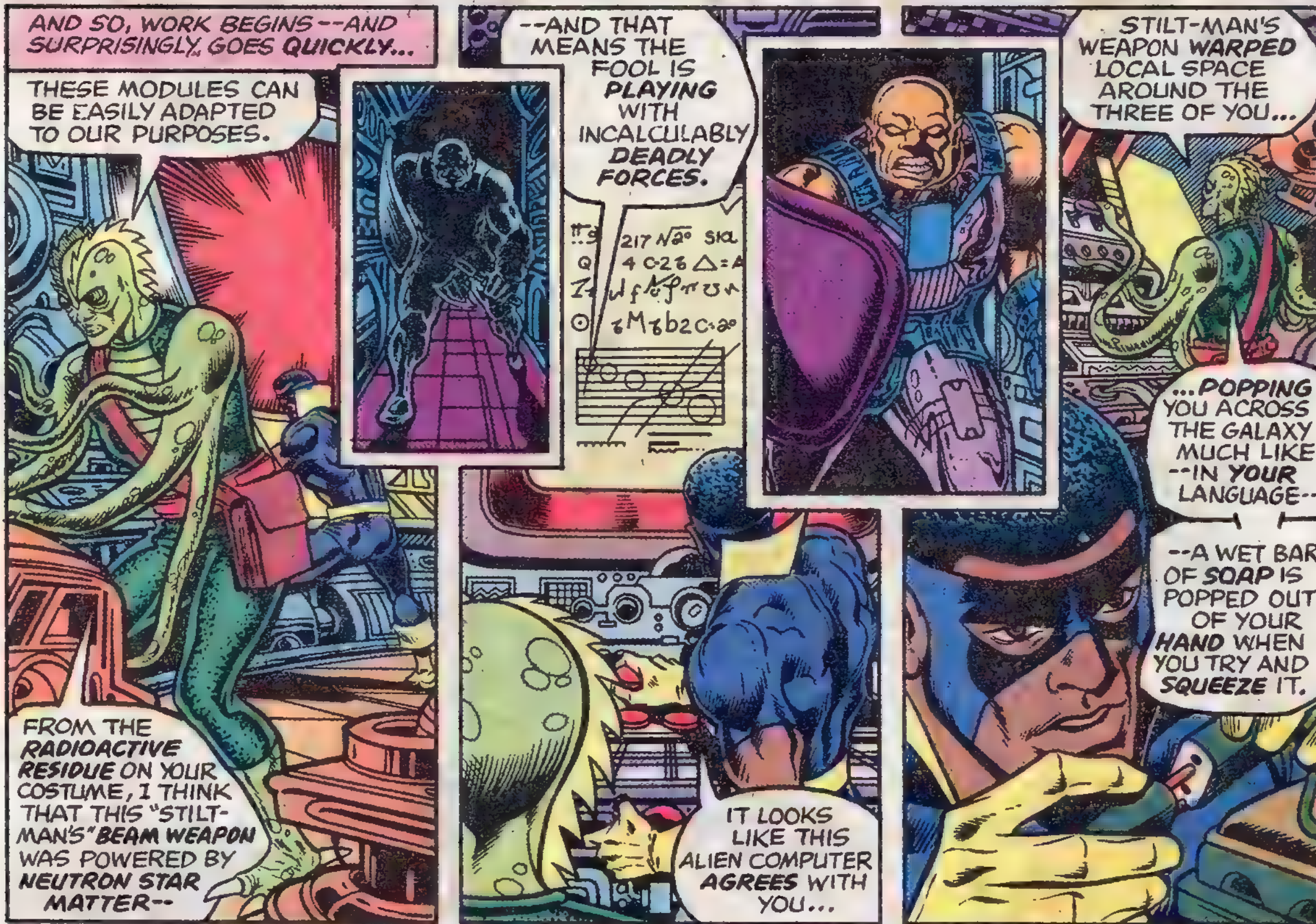


I HATE TO BURST ANYONE'S BUBBLE, BUT WE'RE STUCK UP THAT PROVERBIAL CREEK.

I'M A **SCIENTIST**, DERATH, BUT MY TRAINING IS IN THE **LIFE SCIENCES**, NOT PHYSICS. EVEN IF I UNDERSTOOD THE LANGUAGE HERE, TO BEGIN WITH...

I UNDERSTAND IT, GO-LI-ATH--AND I AM A...PHYSICIST.

GIVEN THE MATERIALS AND SOME BASIC TOOLS, I CAN CONSTRUCT A FUNCTIONAL **STARSHIP** FROM SCRATCH. IN THIS PLACE, I CAN DO MUCH MORE.



AND SO, WORK BEGINS--AND SURPRISINGLY, GOES QUICKLY...

THESE MODULES CAN BE EASILY ADAPTED TO OUR PURPOSES.

--AND THAT MEANS THE FOOL IS PLAYING WITH INCALCULABLY DEADLY FORCES.

217 $\sqrt{2}$ SKL
4 C28 $\Delta = A$
Z $\sqrt{f} \pi \pi \pi$
O $z M 7 b 2 c . a o$

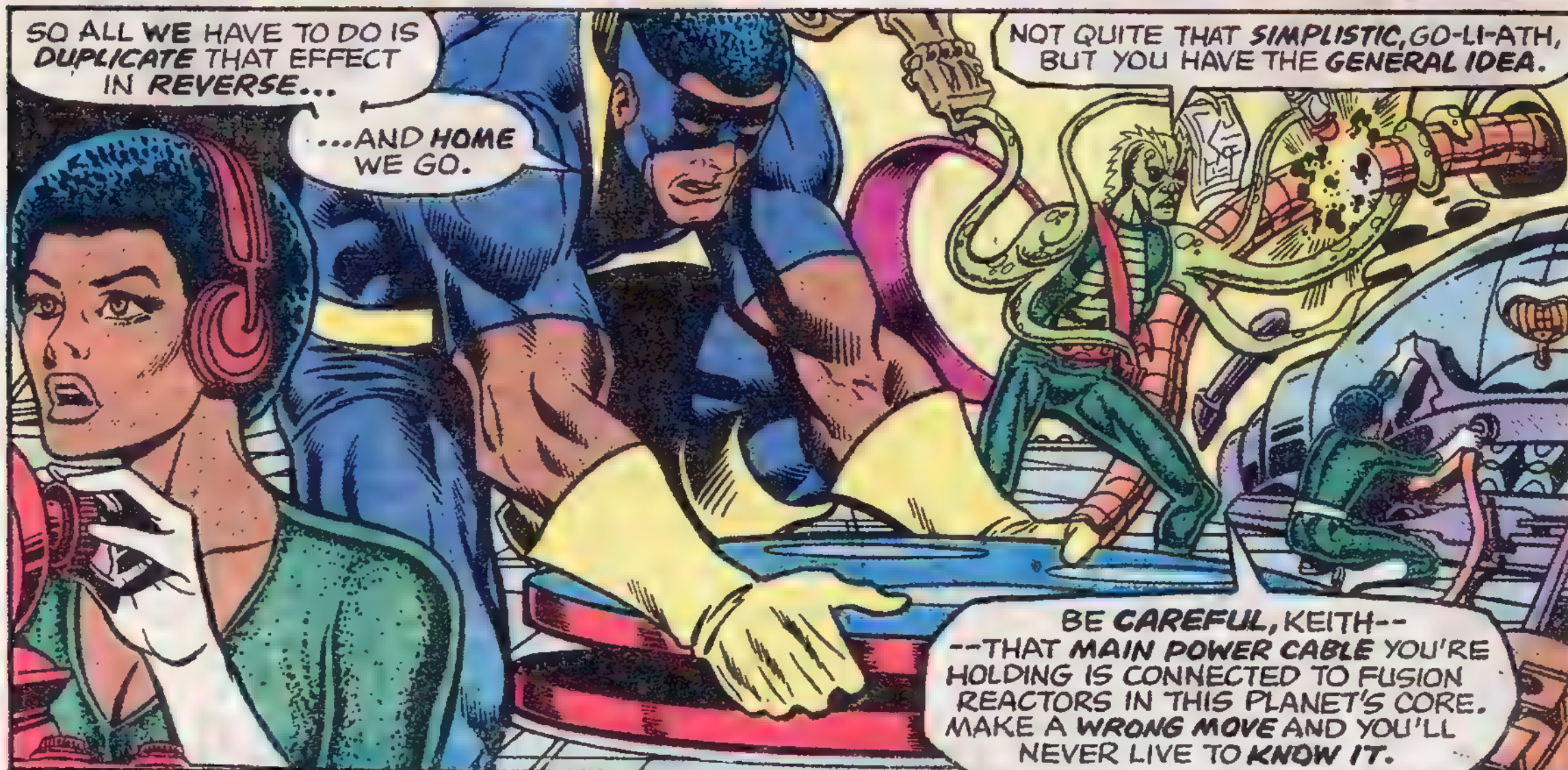
STILT-MAN'S WEAPON WARPED LOCAL SPACE AROUND THE THREE OF YOU...

...POPPING YOU ACROSS THE GALAXY MUCH LIKE --IN YOUR LANGUAGE--

--A WET BAR OF SOAP IS POPPED OUT OF YOUR HAND WHEN YOU TRY AND SQUEEZE IT.

FROM THE RADIOACTIVE RESIDUE ON YOUR COSTUME, I THINK THAT THIS "STILT-MAN'S" BEAM WEAPON WAS POWERED BY NEUTRON STAR MATTER--

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS ALIEN COMPUTER AGREES WITH YOU...



SO ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS DUPLICATE THAT EFFECT IN REVERSE...

...AND HOME WE GO.

NOT QUITE THAT SIMPLISTIC, GO-LI-ATH, BUT YOU HAVE THE GENERAL IDEA.

BE CAREFUL, KEITH-- --THAT MAIN POWER CABLE YOU'RE HOLDING IS CONNECTED TO FUSION REACTORS IN THIS PLANET'S CORE. MAKE A WRONG MOVE AND YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO KNOW IT.

SUPERHEROES ASSEMBLE!



Y'SAY YOUR NEWSDEALER ALWAYS SELLS HIS LAST COPIES OF YOUR FAVORITE MARVEL MAGS JUST BEFORE YOU ARRIVE? Y'SAY YOU FIND IT HARD TO VISIT YOUR LOCAL COMIC STORE REGULARLY ENOUGH? Y'SAY YOU'D LIKE YOUR COPIES A WEE BIT BEFORE THE REST OF THE WORLD? IS THAT'S WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, O KEEPER OF THE FLAME? THEN WORRY NO MORE!

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GREETINGS TO GOLIATH

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As some of you may already know—or may not know, depending on the vagaries of fan word-of-mouth—this is the last issue of BLACK GOLIATH. Like many another mag in their time, Bashful Bill Foster's is biting the dust for that most basic of reasons, namely poor sales. Though the letters indicated that there were people out there who liked what GOLIATH was and what Chris and his various artists were doing, they weren't enough to keep the book going in these days of ever-spiralling costs. Which is sad, but which are also the breaks of the game. In parting, though, we present a brief potpourri of the letters received for issues #3 & #4. And we thank all of you who did support the book for sticking around as long as you did.

Dear Chris, George, and Bullpen:

I'm extremely pleased with the prospects for BLACK GOLIATH. With just three short stories, it has quickly moved up to become one of my favorite strips. What I'm most pleased with is that BG is just a good old-fashioned super-hero/crimebuster.

It seems like every comic that has been produced in the past couple of years has been related to some trend or another, and we have seen very few new comics that are based on the old super-hero/crimebuster format that comics were originally based upon. I look forward to the publication of NOVA because it seems to sound like one of these. But Black Goliath is a good-old super-hero and he's an exciting one, too. I look forward to a long career for him, and someday I hope that he will have his own stable of arch-enemies and super-villains connected with him, just the way that Dr. Doom, Galactus, the Silver Surfer, and others are related to the Fantastic Four, and the Green Goblin, Doctor Octopus, Lizard, and so many others are said in the same breath as Spider-Man. In fact, I look forward to the day when Black Goliath is listed up with all of the good-old Marvel super-heroes like Spidey, Daredevil, Iron Man, and Captain America.

Vulcan and the Atom-Smasher seem like good ones to start off that stable of arch-enemies. And so does that mysterious bald man sitting behind a television screen, at the end of the last issue—once he gets an identity. Since we don't know the origins of any of them, I hope that we will see them again. (So what if Atom-Smasher is supposed to be dead? Has that ever stopped you before?)

Chris has done a fine job with the last two scripts, and I hope that we will see much more of this. I hope that he will continue to provide a complete characterization for all concerned and give us plenty of sub-plots. I thought that the scenes where Tony Stark demands to see Bill Foster were kind of funny. He's not ready to allow another executive time off to be a super-hero when he takes time off to be Iron Man, is he?

Larry Twiss
227 Fox Run

King of Prussia, PA 19406

You may have been pleased with our prospects, Larry, but as our lead-off announcement noted, you were in the minority. Our big galoot may well indeed have a long and glorious career with Marvel—as a matter of fact, he'll be doing regular guest-shots in the CHAMPIONS as their resident whiz-kid/genius—but it won't be in this book.

Dear Marvel,

I think it's about time more black super-heroes invaded ol' Marvel, and Black Goliath is just the one. In short, he is another winner in the annals of Marvelism. Issue #3 was a winner all the way, and Mr. Tuska sure knows how to make great action shots. I refer to page 22, Panel 3. Just a knockout!!

You guys really know how to keep a Marvel fan happy! Until the Silver Surfer rides a skateboard to battle, make mine Marvel!!! (What a phrase!!)

Andy Gorman
7020 Bellaire Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 91605

You're on, Andy (what a guy!!), and even if this mag won't get the chance to fill your bill, we hope our other Marvel Master-works will go right on making you happy even past that never-to-be-forgotten day fifty years from now when the Silver Surfer will indeed ride a skateboard into battle. (What?)

Dear Goliatheans:

BLACK GOLIATH is a winner of a comic. In this issue's letters page you speak of finding "...A voice and point-of-view uniquely its own" in every single new comic-mag you put out. Well, from this Marvel freak's point-of-view, BG has had that quality of uniqueness from the beginning. Bill Foster is an amateur in the super-hero biz, and that in itself is a comics first. Oh, sure, Spidey was once just a beginner, too. But Stan didn't play that fact up, whereas in this mag you do. I hope that this becomes this magazine's trade-mark in its first few years: A super-hero who is learning how to be a Super-Star.

The supporting cast you have running in this comic is amazing. The Whiz kids are a stroke of genius (no pun intended). What really interests me thus far, however, is the "boss" side of a certain Anthony Stark. Looks like he's just as cruel as every other one (just kidding, Stan!). I hope that Tony becomes a semi-regular in this book. Some great future cross-over possibilities between this mag and IRON MAN have been introduced already.

Now come the gripes I have concerning this mag. You need to come up with some new super-villains to start a long-running hate-relationship with Mr. Foster. Atom-Smasher just doesn't cut it, and the Stilt-Man should have gotten his walking papers after DD mopped him up in DAREDEVIL #67. Let's face it, the guy is a dud.

So, that raps up another letter. I guess that I really should mention Chris Claremont's script. Without a mind like his backing up the entire production, us Marvel-types would just be reviewing the grade of paper you people use to produce the best blank-page effects in the industry!

Doug Zimmerman
11322 Lafayette St.
Northglenn, CO 80233

It's a grand idea for a big fight, Doug—and one that Chris confesses he'd been toying with from the day he started writing GOLIATH—but it's one that'll have to take place in IRON MAN now, more's the pity. Still, one can take heart from the dynamite Keith Pollard art showcased this issue; Keith was slated to be the book's regular artist, but don't fret, frantic ones, talent like his is hard to hide. And we figure you'll be seeing his stuff again.

As for Cheerful Chris Claremont... the less said about him, the better... unless, of course, you happen to be reading X-MEN or IRON FIST!

In closing, a personal thank you from the GOLIATH armadillo to all you guys out in Union City, New Jersey (you know who you are, Peter Leo, Antero Cortez, Ed Quintero—in fact, all 37 of you!). We're really glad you liked the book, despite its brief run, and we're sorry Atom-Smasher's death upset you so much. Remember, though, this is Marvel and nobody dies forever; he may pop up in some other book someday. You never can tell...

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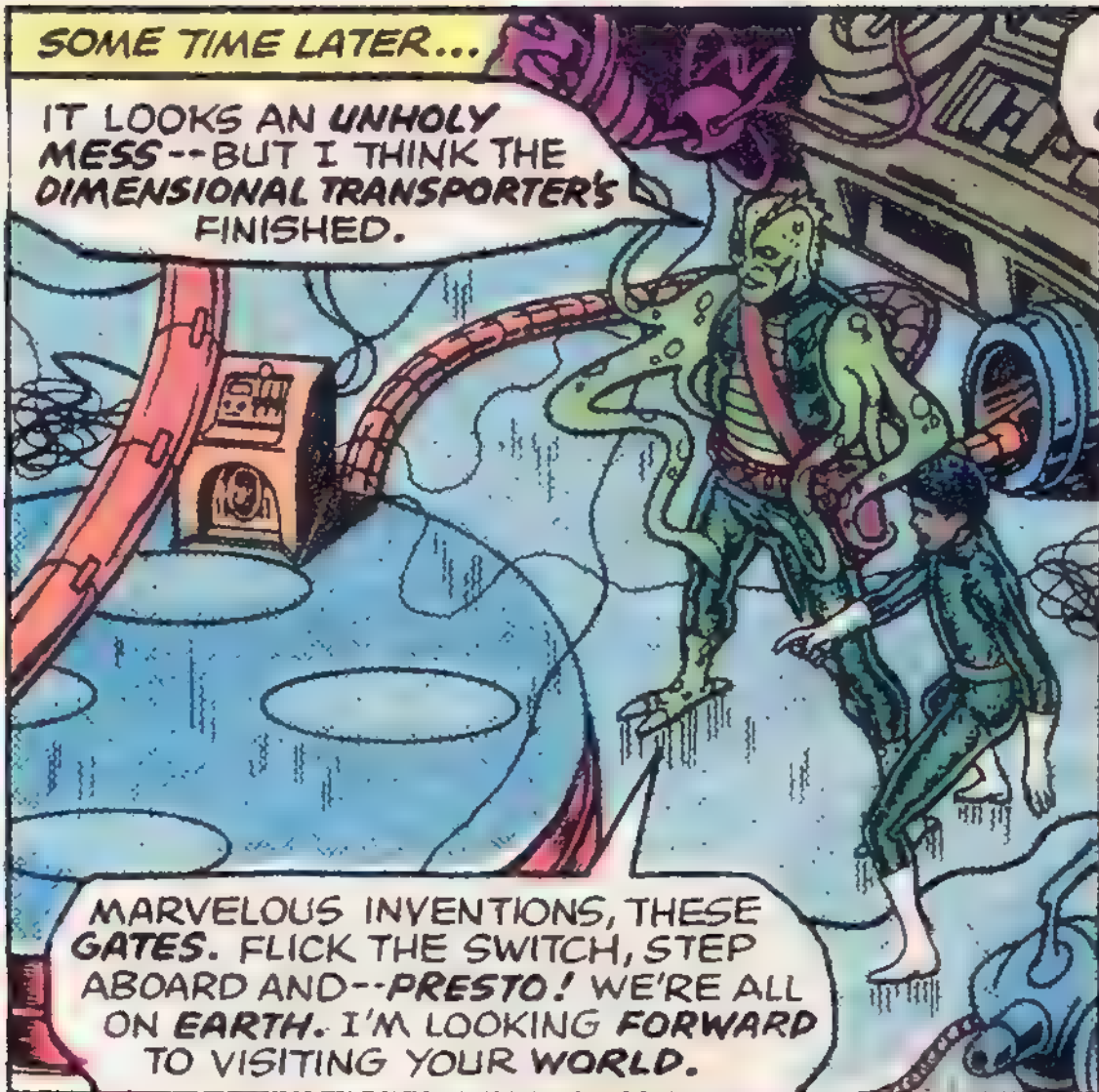
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NOW, WHERE'S GO-LI-ATH?

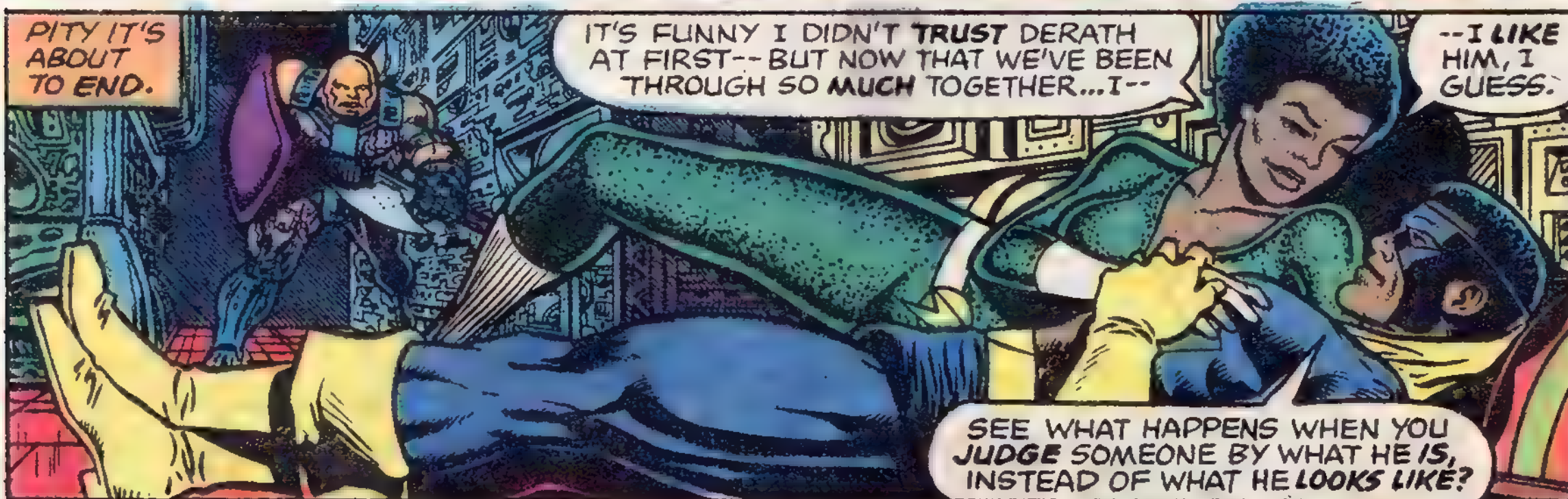


HE AN' AUNT CELIA WENT FOR A STROLL OFF THAT WAY.



IN OTHER WORDS, DERATH...

...THEY WANTED SOME TIME TO THEMSELVES.

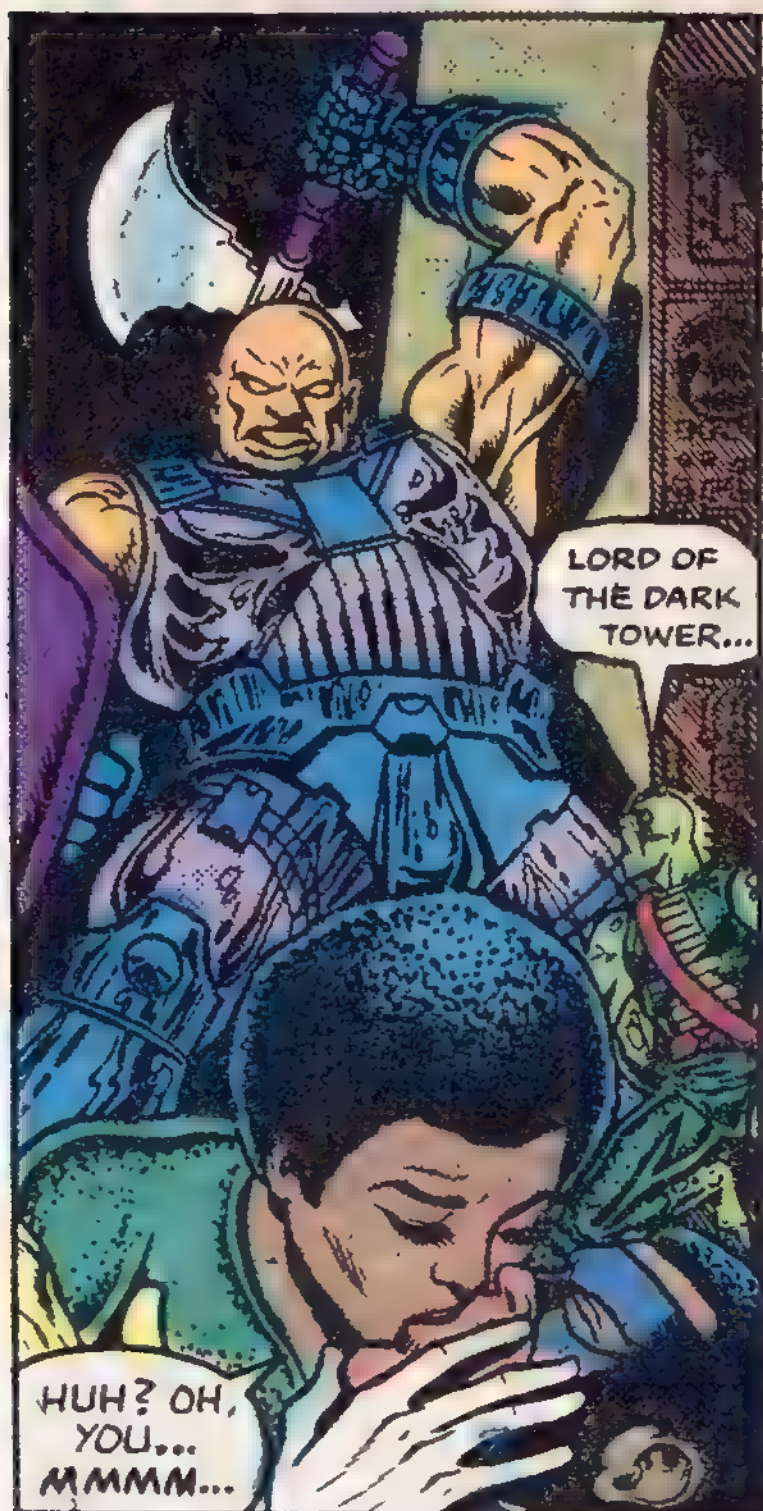


PITY IT'S ABOUT TO END.

IT'S FUNNY I DIDN'T TRUST DERATH AT FIRST--BUT NOW THAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH TOGETHER...I--

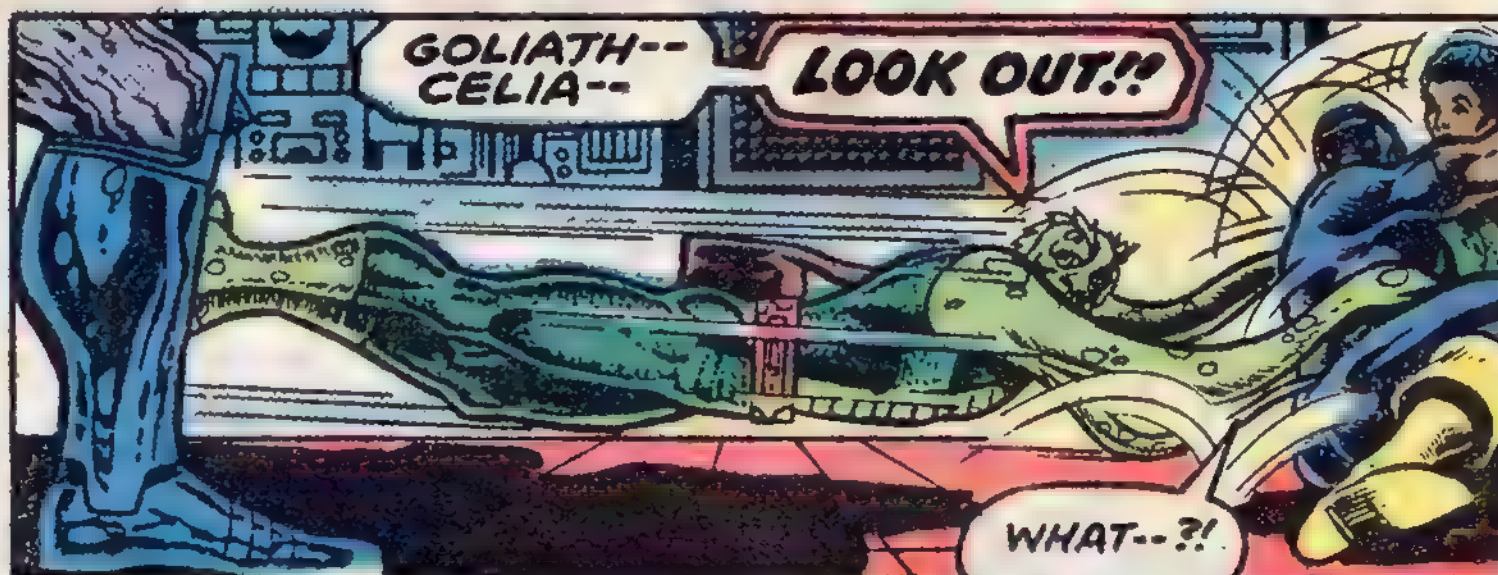
--I LIKE HIM, I GUESS.

SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU JUDGE SOMEONE BY WHAT HE IS, INSTEAD OF WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE?



LORD OF THE DARK TOWER...

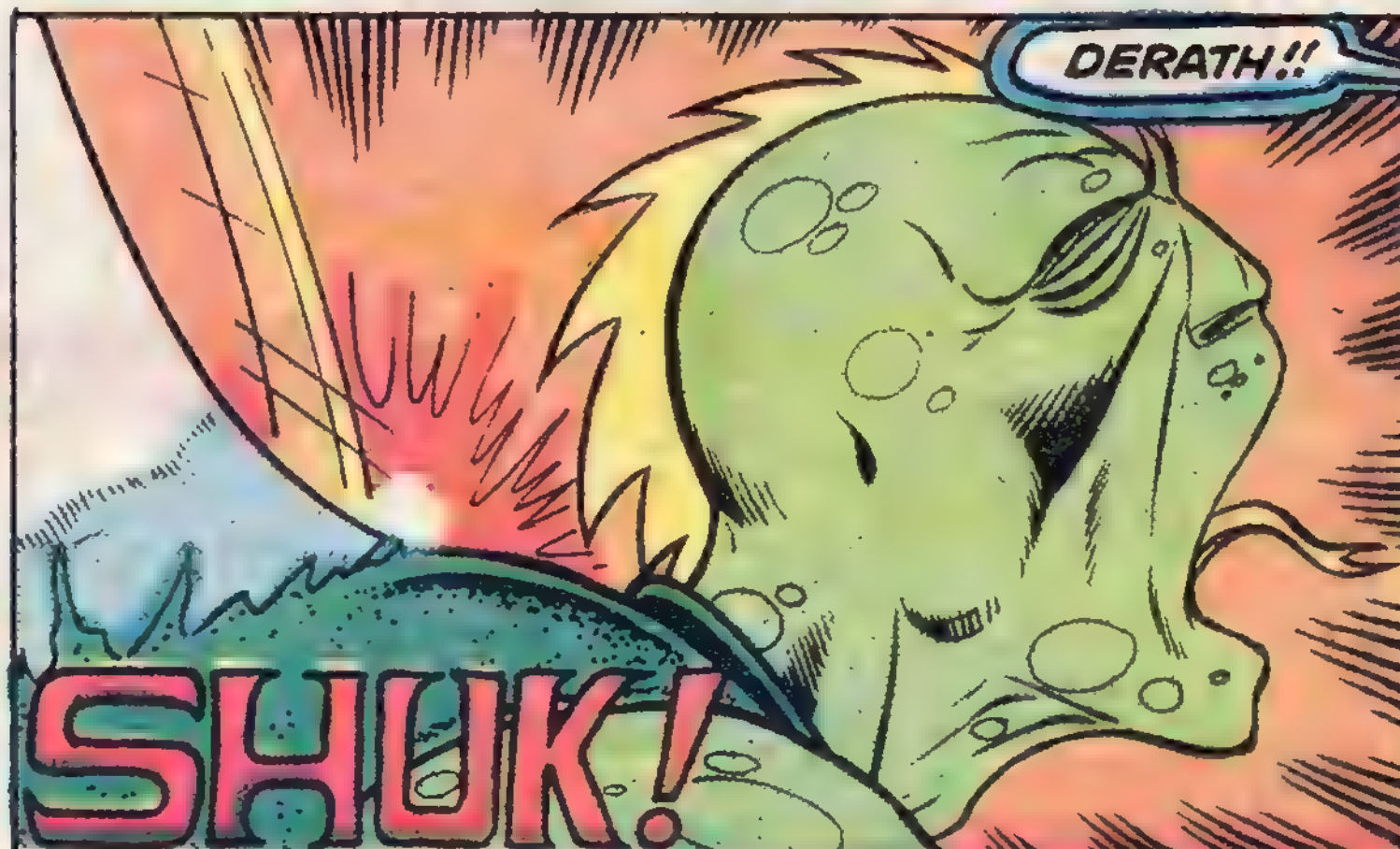
HUH? OH, YOU... MMMM...



GOLIATH-- CELIA--

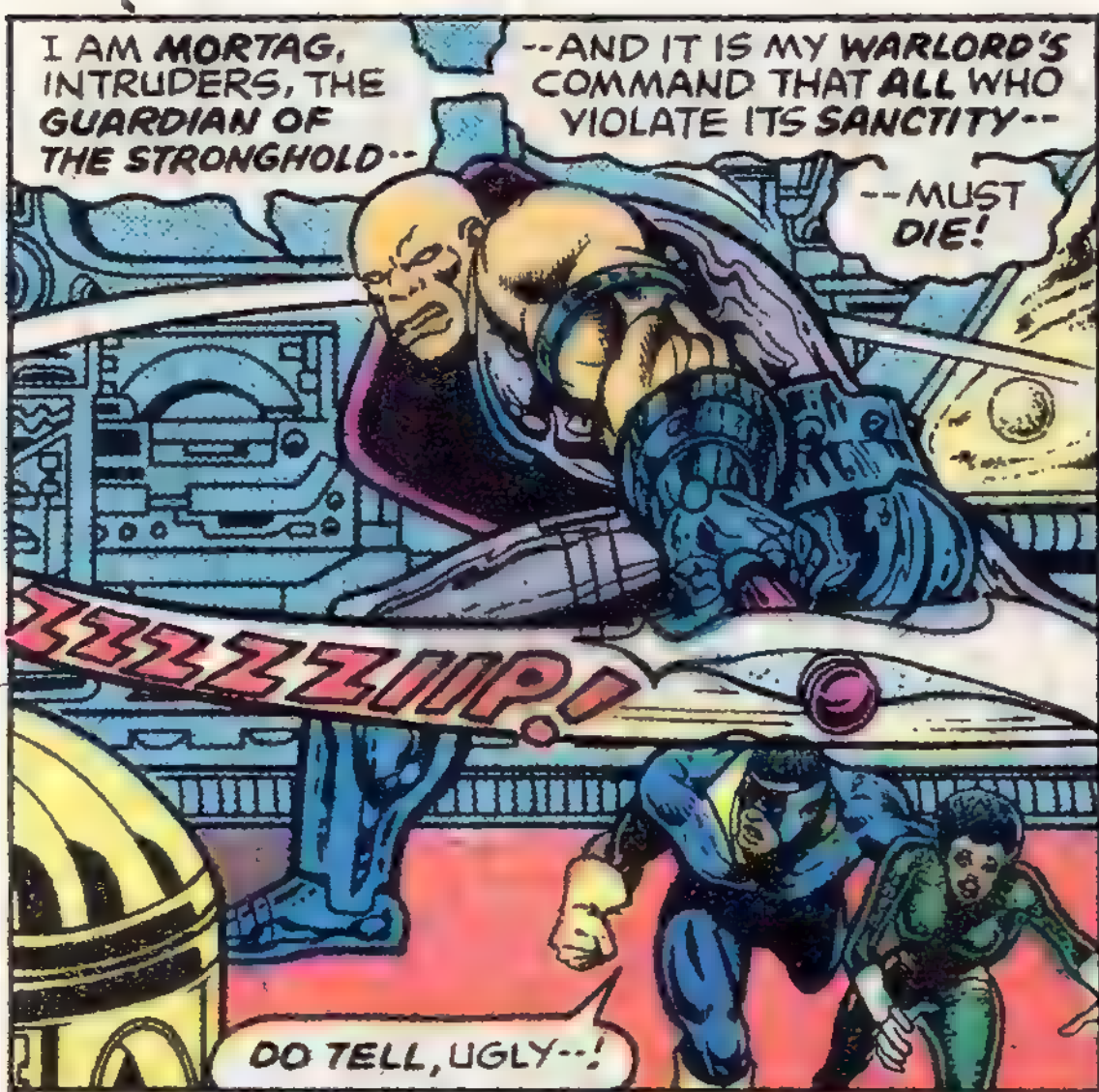
LOOK OUT!!

WHAT--?!



DERATH!!

SHUK!



I AM MORTAG,
INTRUDERS, THE
GUARDIAN OF
THE STRONGHOLD--

--AND IT IS MY WARLORD'S
COMMAND THAT ALL WHO
VIOLATE ITS SANCTITY--

--MUST
DIE!

DO TELL, UGLY--!



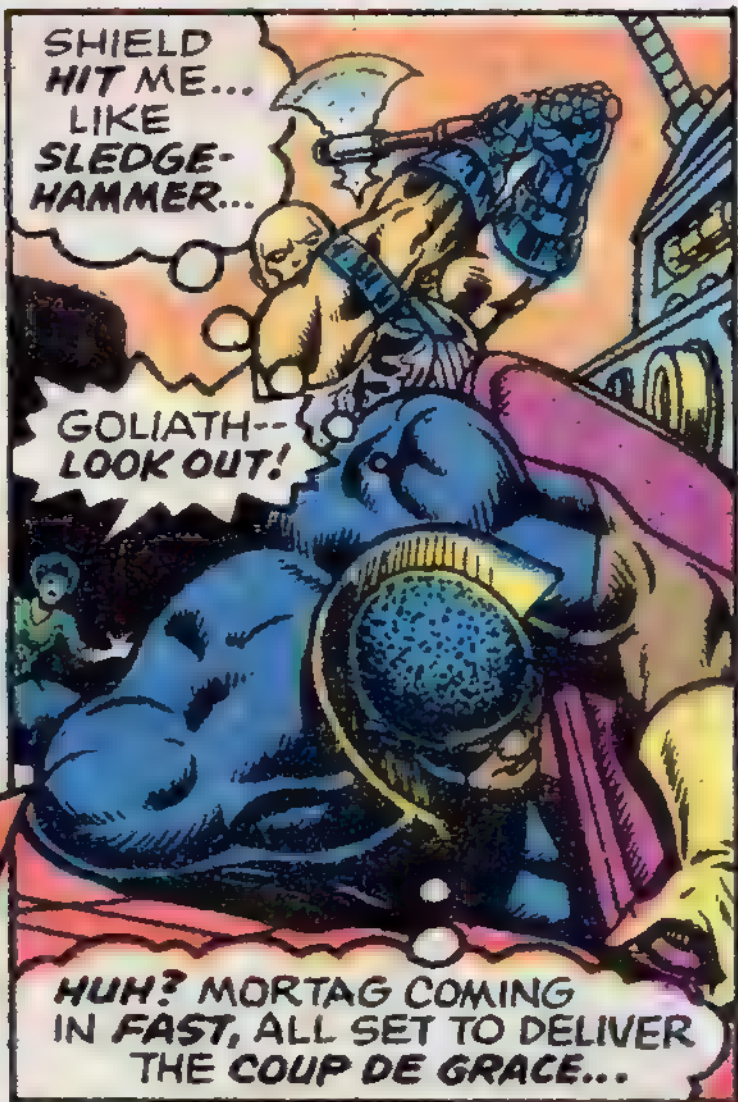
WELL, MY
HANDLE'S
GOLIATH--!

--AND I DON'T
TAKE KINDLY TO SEEING
MY FRIENDS BUTCHERED
IN FRONT OF MY
EYES!



THAT
MATTERS
LITTLE.

FOR YOU WILL
SOON BE
JOINING HIM!



SHIELD
HIT ME...
LIKE
SLEDGE-
HAMMER...

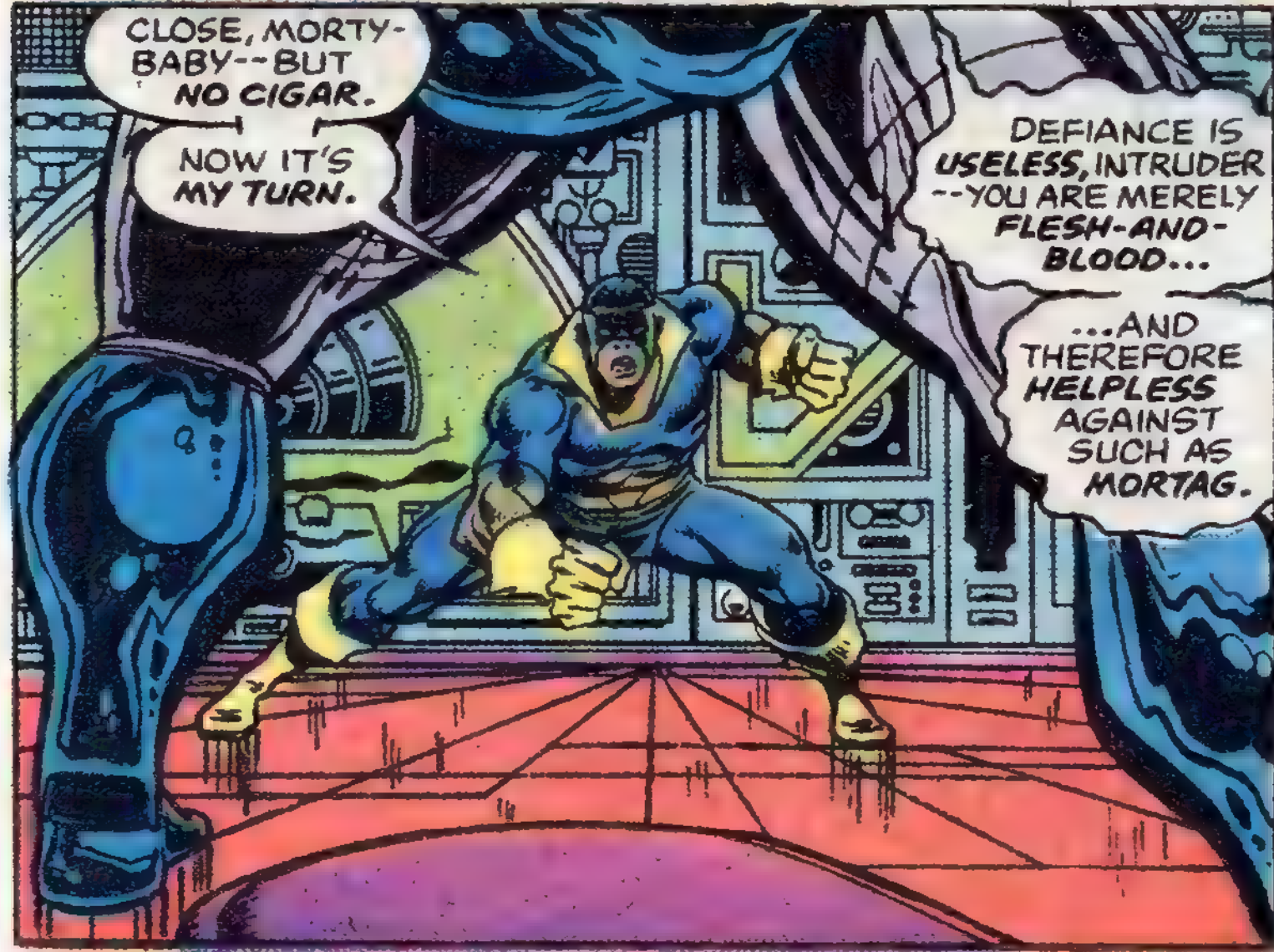
GOLIATH--
LOOK OUT!

HUH? MORTAG COMING
IN FAST, ALL SET TO DELIVER
THE COUP DE GRACE...



SO IF EVER
THERE WAS
A TIME TO
MOVE,
BUSTER--

THIS
IS IT!



CLOSE, MORTY-
BABY--BUT
NO CIGAR.

NOW IT'S
MY TURN.

DEFIANCE IS
USELESS, INTRUDER
--YOU ARE MERELY
FLESH-AND-
BLOOD...

...AND
THEREFORE
HELPLESS
AGAINST
SUCH AS
MORTAG.



WHAT
DID HE
MEAN BY
THAT?

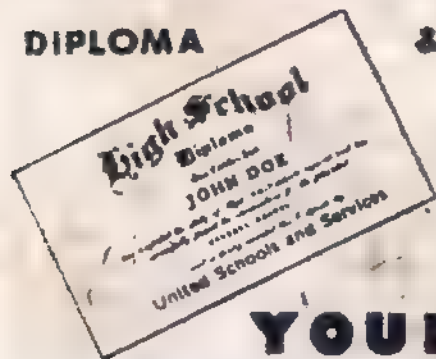
WHOOPS!
NO MORE
TIME FOR
IDLE THOUGHT,
GOLIATH.

HIGH SCHOOL

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&

RING



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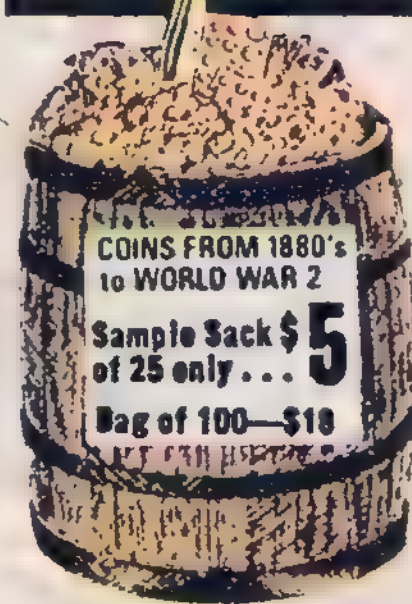


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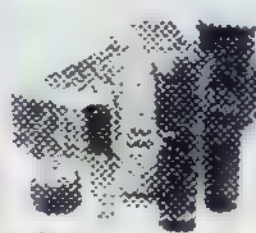


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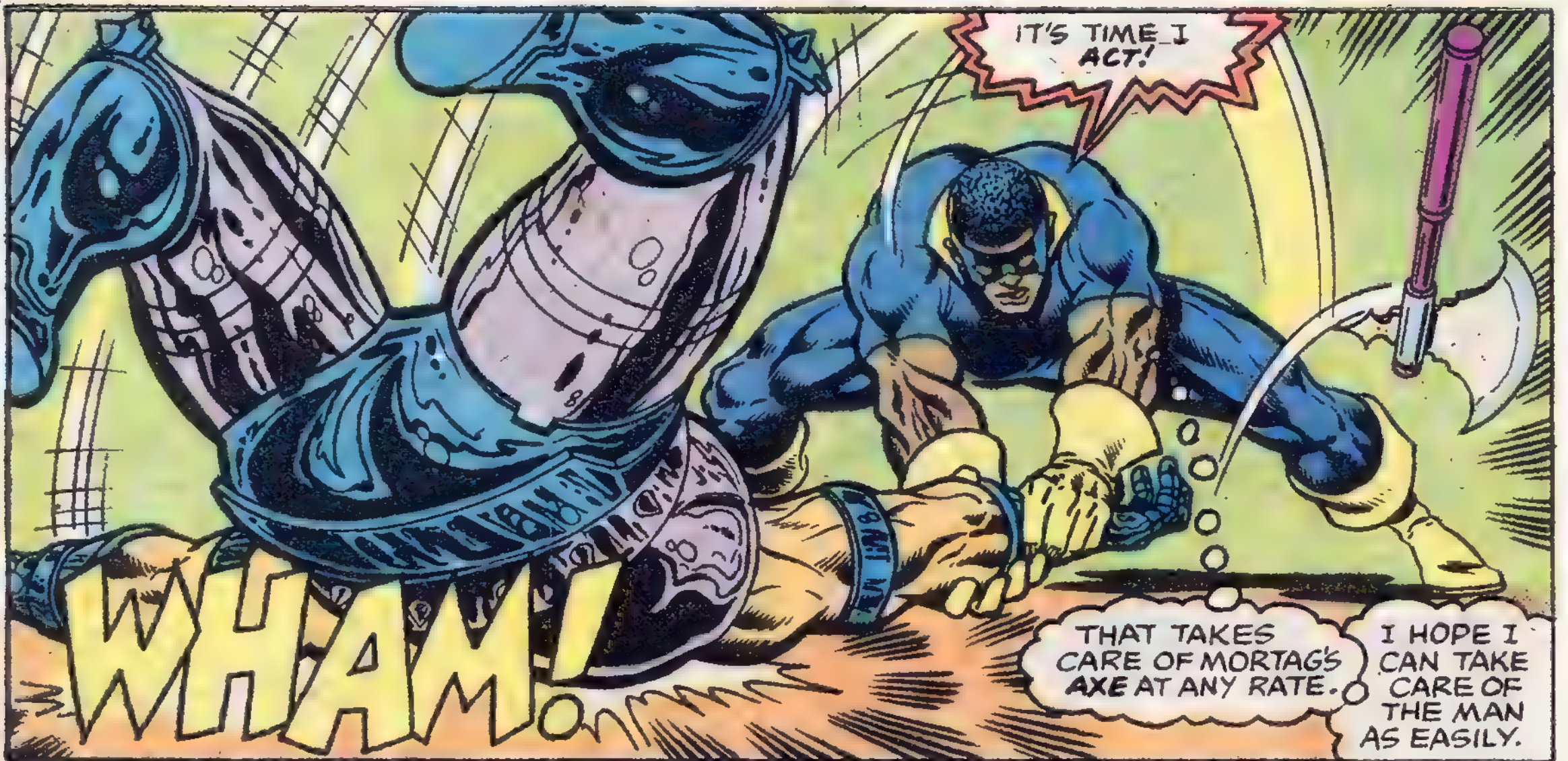
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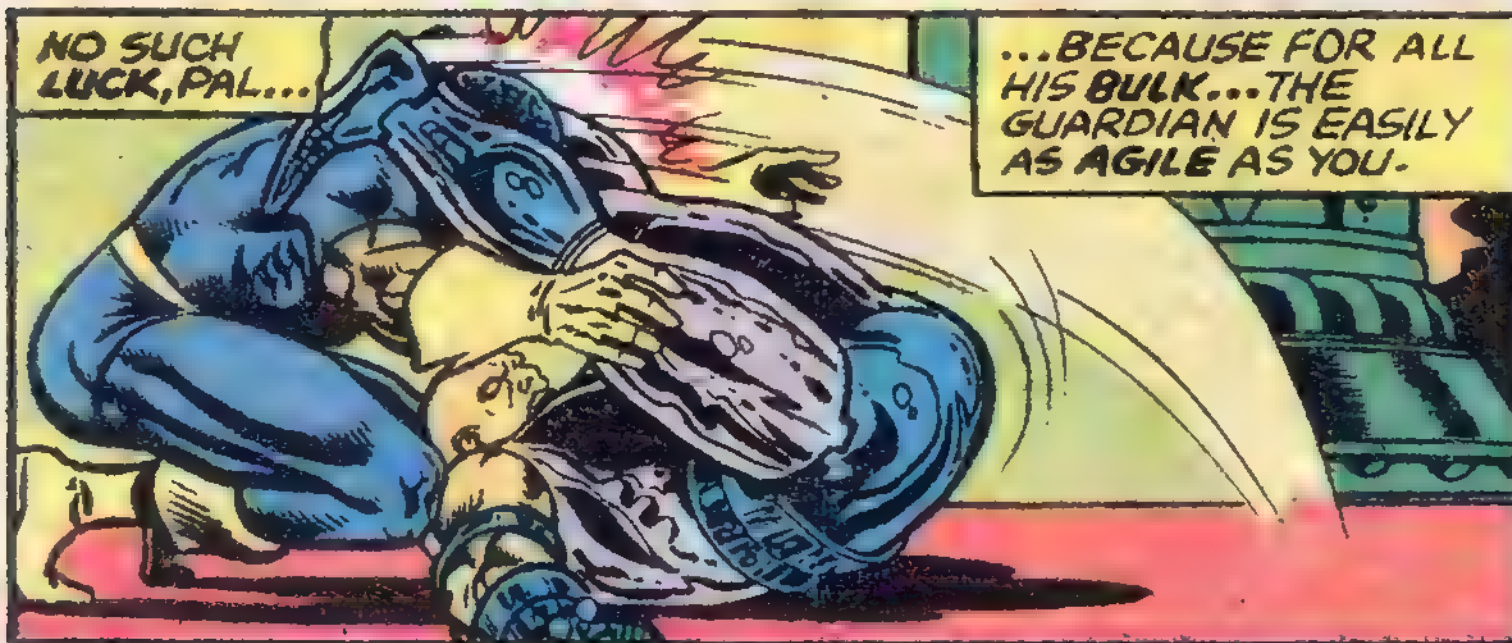


IT'S TIME I
ACT!

WHAM!

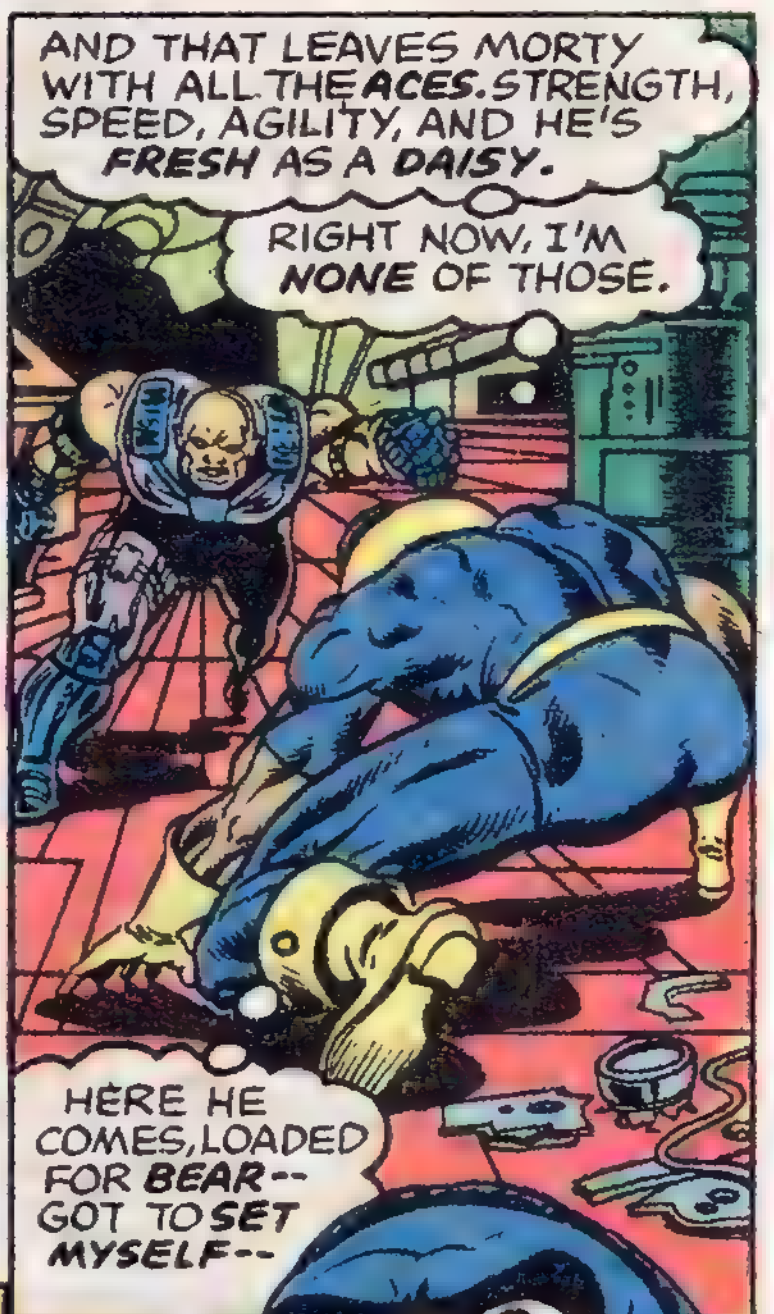
THAT TAKES
CARE OF MORTAG'S
AXE AT ANY RATE.

I HOPE I
CAN TAKE
CARE OF
THE MAN
AS EASILY.



NO SUCH
LUCK, PAL...

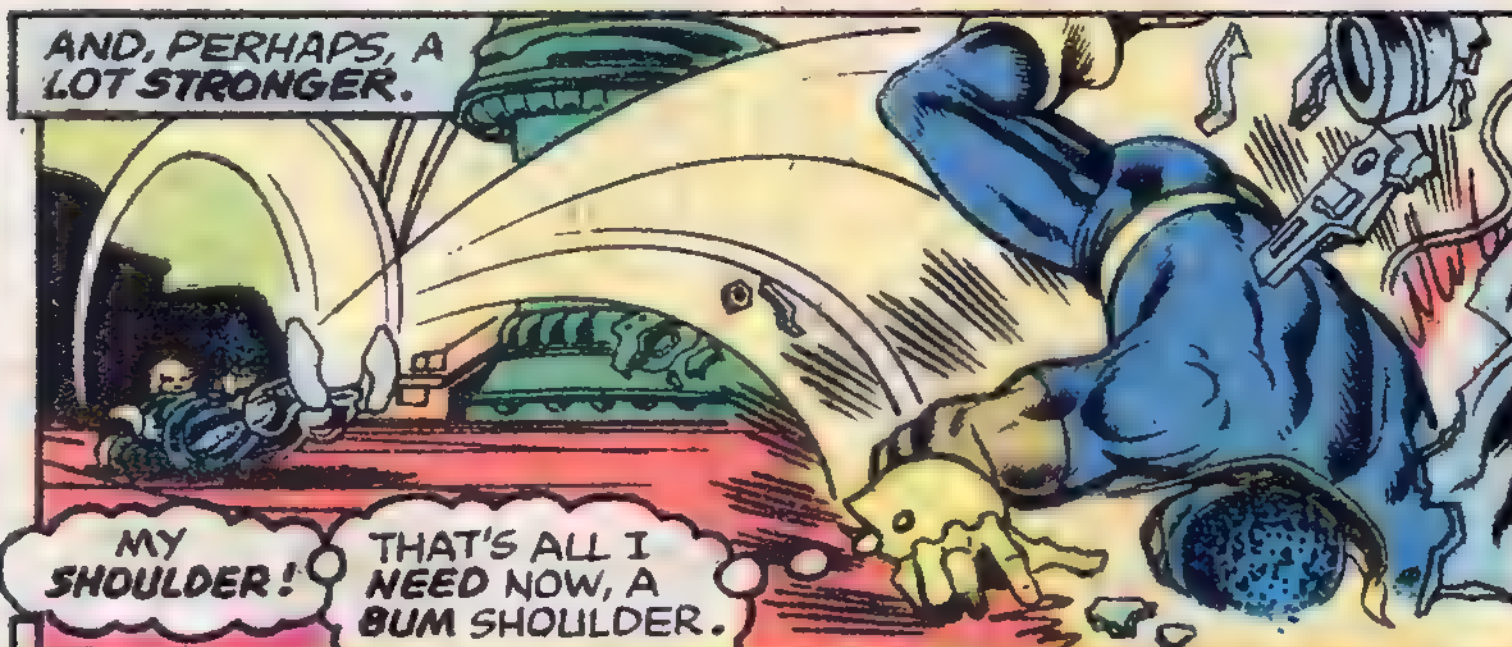
...BECAUSE FOR ALL
HIS BULK...THE
GUARDIAN IS EASILY
AS AGILE AS YOU.



AND THAT LEAVES MORTY
WITH ALL THE ACES. STRENGTH,
SPEED, AGILITY, AND HE'S
FRESH AS A DAISY.

RIGHT NOW, I'M
NONE OF THOSE.

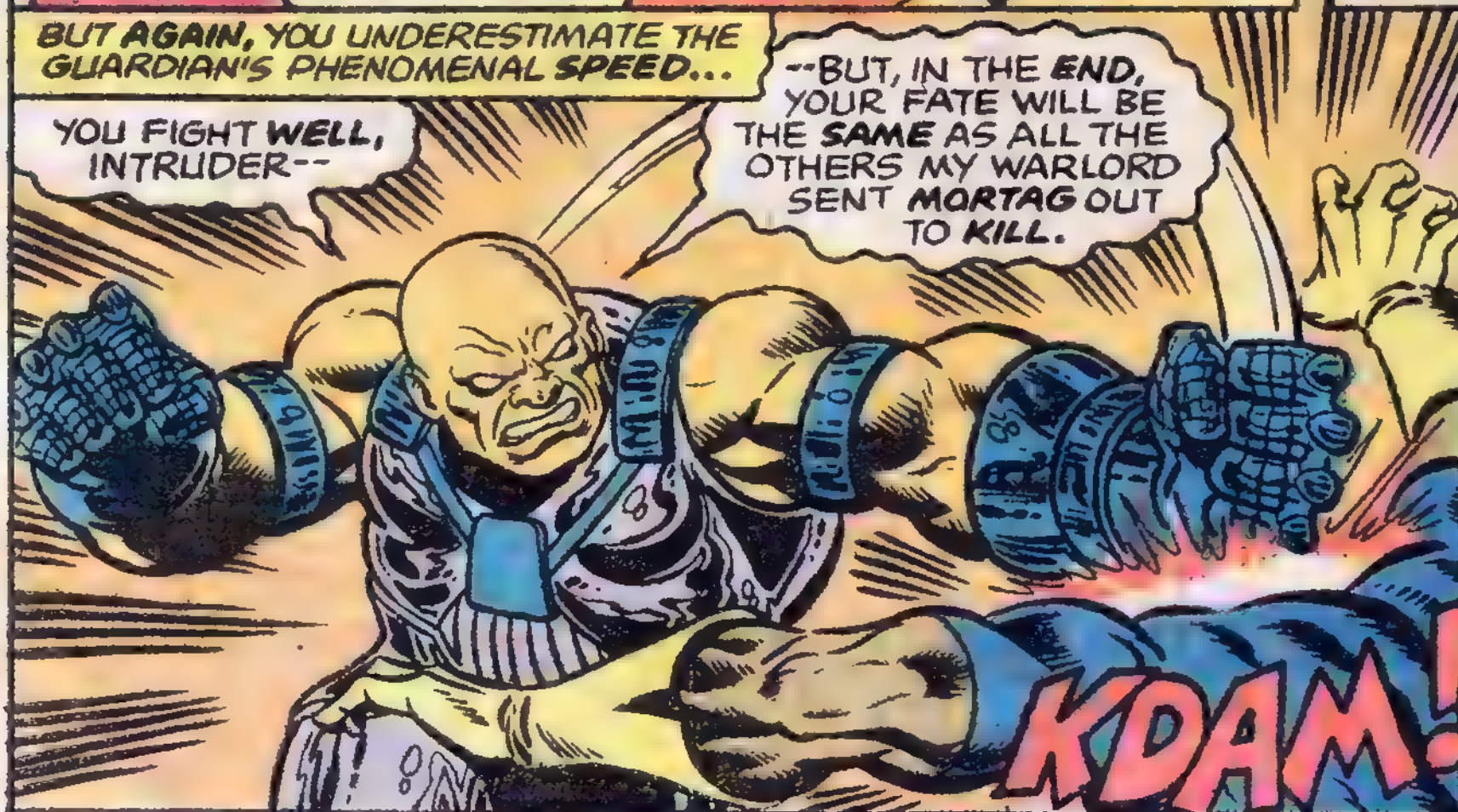
HERE HE
COMES, LOADED
FOR BEAR--
GOT TO SET
MYSELF--



AND, PERHAPS, A
LOT STRONGER.

MY
SHOULDER!

THAT'S ALL I
NEED NOW, A
BUM SHOULDER.



BUT AGAIN, YOU UNDERESTIMATE THE
GUARDIAN'S PHENOMENAL SPEED...

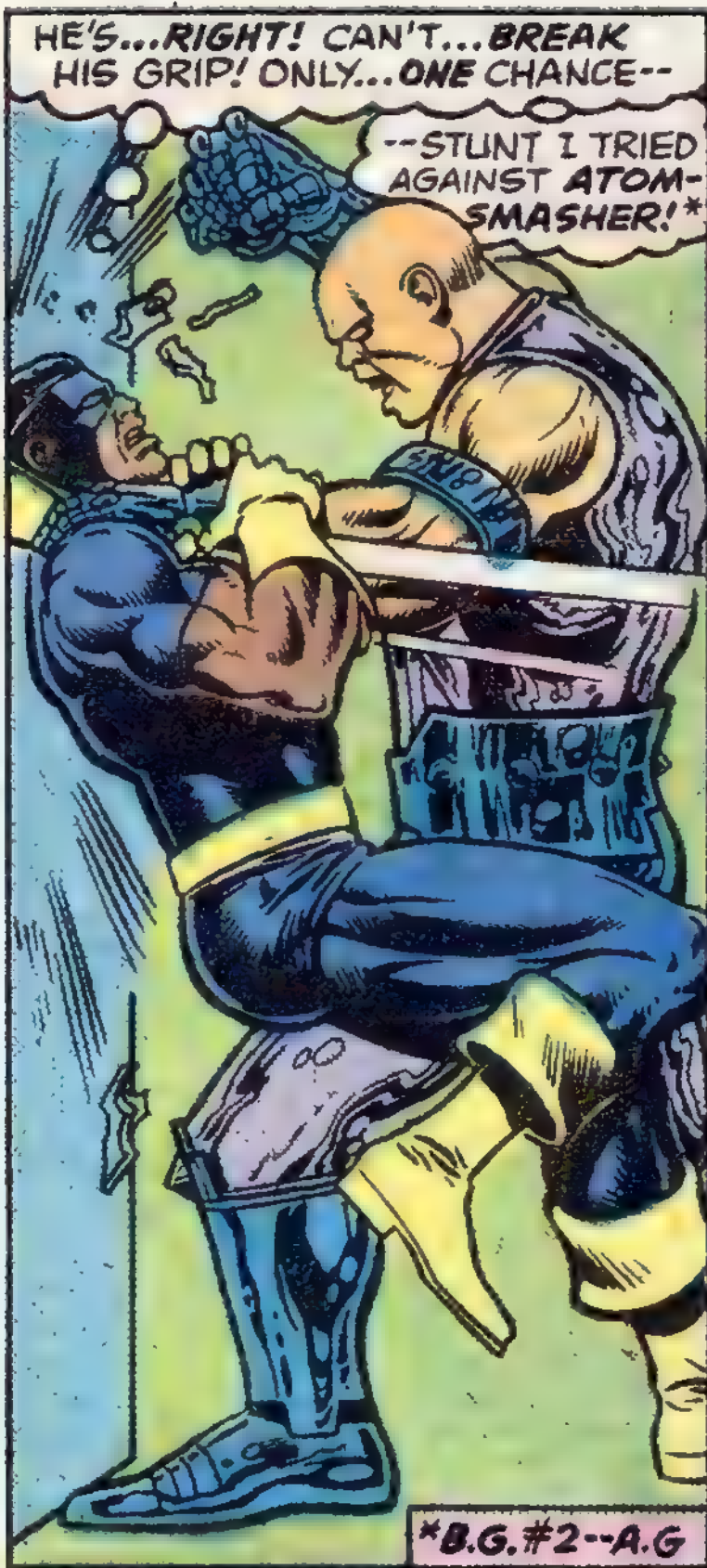
YOU FIGHT WELL,
INTRUDER--

--BUT, IN THE END,
YOUR FATE WILL BE
THE SAME AS ALL THE
OTHERS MY WARLORD
SENT MORTAG OUT
TO KILL.

KDAM!



IT WILL BE
DEATH!



HE'S...RIGHT! CAN'T...BREAK HIS GRIP! ONLY...ONE CHANCE--

--STUNT I TRIED AGAINST ATOM-SMASHER!*

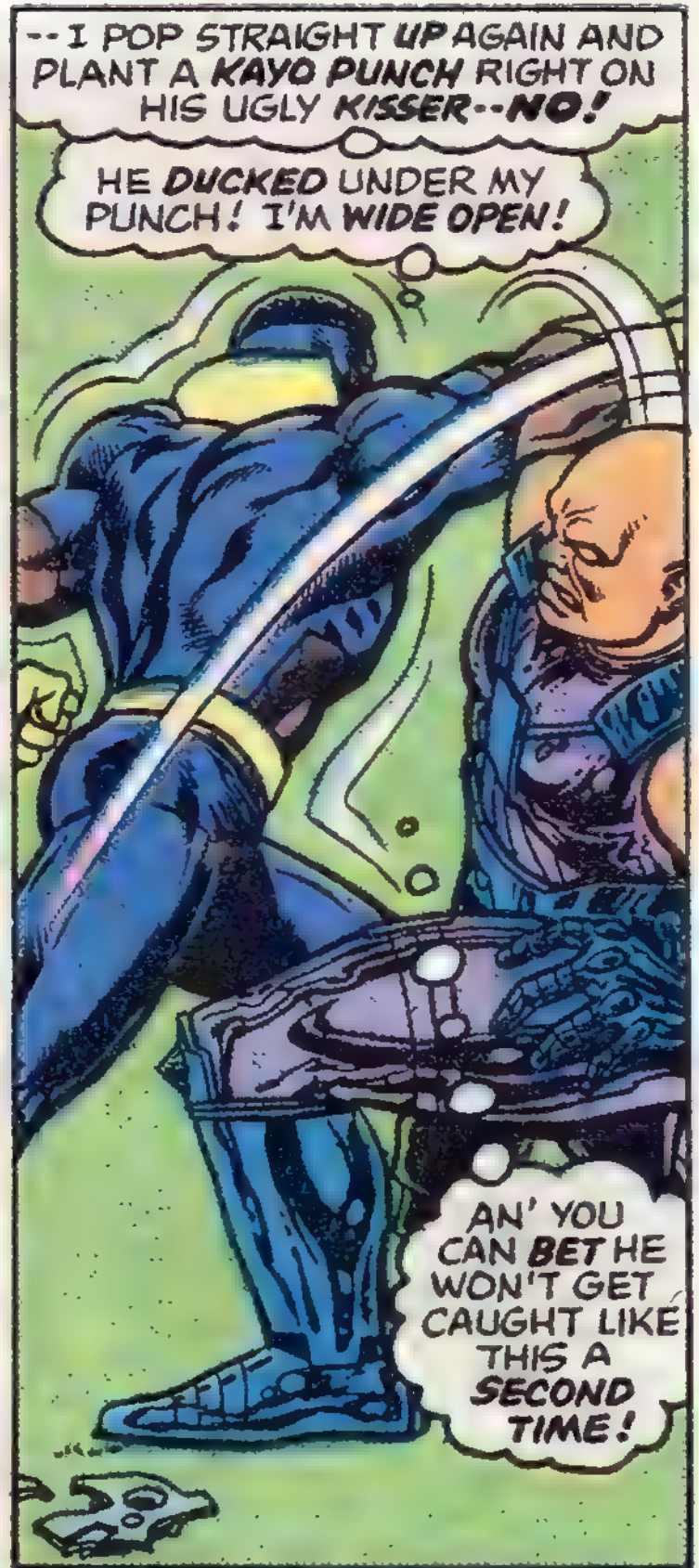
*B.G.#2--A.G



MORTY'S ALL HOT TO STRANGLE A GOLIATH--

--SO IF I SHRINK DOWN TO NORMAL SIZE, I SHOULD DROP THROUGH HIS FINGERS...

BINGO! AND ONCE I'M ON THE GROUND--



--I POP STRAIGHT UP AGAIN AND PLANT A KAYO PUNCH RIGHT ON HIS UGLY KISSER--NO!

HE DUCKED UNDER MY PUNCH! I'M WIDE OPEN!

AN' YOU CAN BET HE WON'T GET CAUGHT LIKE THIS A SECOND TIME!



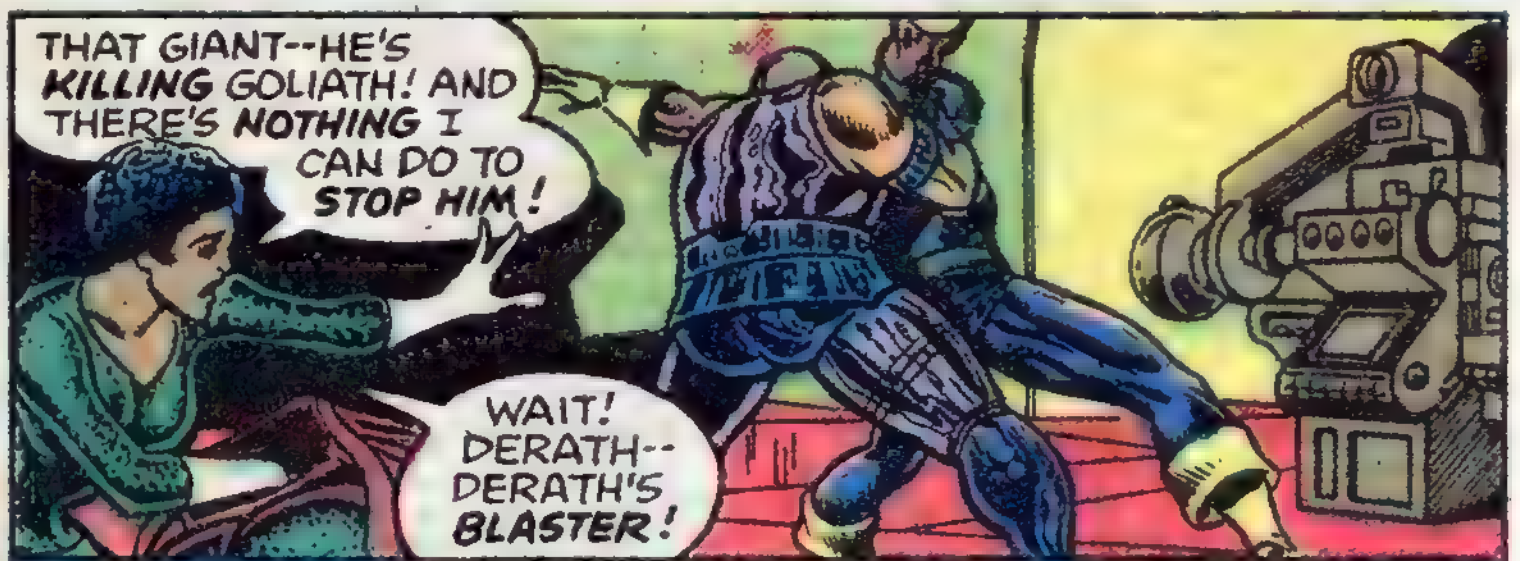
YOU CALLED IT, HIGH-POCKETS.

NO MORE TRICKS, INTRUDER. FIRST I WILL TERMINATE YOU...

...AND THEN YOUR COMPANIONS.

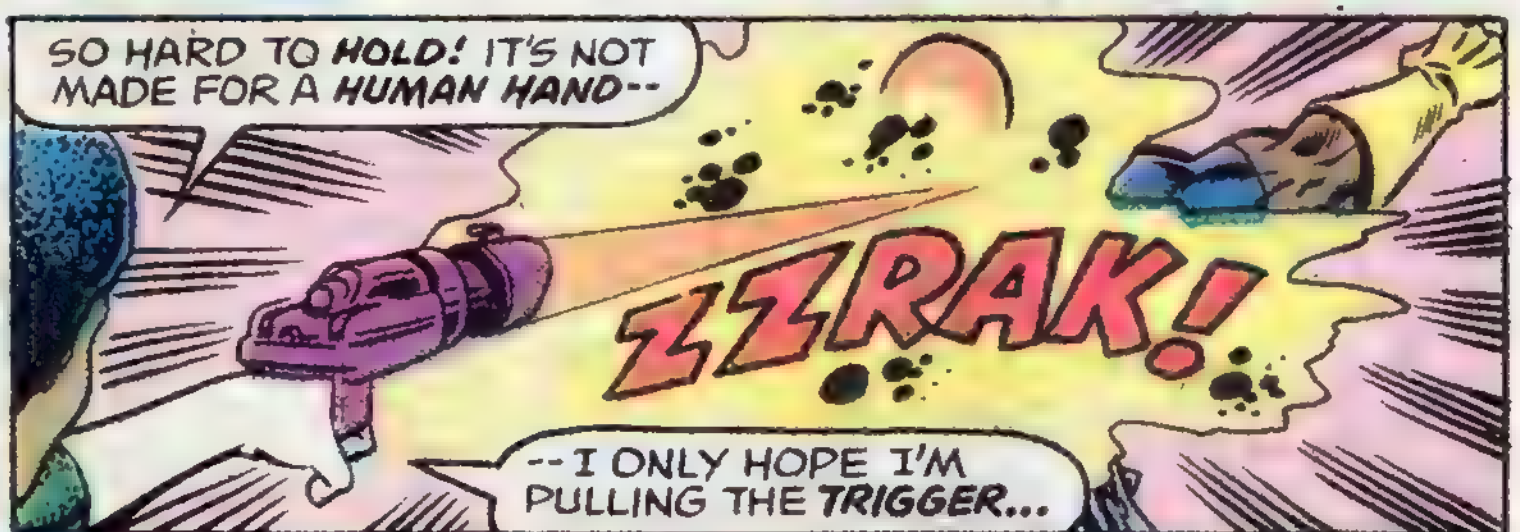
CAN'T GIVE UP... BUT IT FEELS...LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO...

...TEAR MY HEAD OFF!



THAT GIANT--HE'S KILLING GOLIATH! AND THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO STOP HIM!

WAIT! DERATH--DERATH'S BLASTER!



SO HARD TO HOLD! IT'S NOT MADE FOR A HUMAN HAND--

--I ONLY HOPE I'M PULLING THE TRIGGER...



I DID IT!

THE MONSTER'S REELING --IN PAIN! MY SHOT MUST HAVE HURT HIM!

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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

I never thought it would happen-- but it did! Only a mixed-up outfit like Marvel would have to worry about being too successful! Wouldja believe we've been getting all kinds of mail from True Believers everywhere complaining that our mags are selling out too fast-- they seem to be gone by the time Marveldom Assembled can reach the newsstands! In fact, one really serious new problem is the hoarders who buy all the copies of a new issue as soon as it appears, intending to hold onto the copies and sell them later at a big profit. Some of the letters we receive even blame us for this unfair practice-- but honest, gang, Marvel has nothing to do with it. We have absolutely no way of controlling what happens to our books as soon as they leave the printing plant. In fact, if we want to pick up a few extra copies of THE ETERNALS, or HOWARD THE DUCK, or any other Marvel master-works, we have as much trouble getting them as you do! The only way to beat the game is to subscribe-- that way you're sure of getting every issue you want, and getting it on time, at the right price, and now mailed crisp and flat to keep 'em neat among your Rembrandts and Picassos. But now-- on to heavier stuff. You've probably heard about the great new comicbook indexes being produced by our ol' Canadian cavorter, George Olshesky. But unless you've seen 'em for yourself, you can't possibly imagine how really impressive they are. The first one is the Marvel Comics Index of The Amazing Spider-Man, showing every cover printed from issue #1 right up to #151, plus the Giant-Size and Special Issues as well. It tells who wrote, drew, edited, and lettered every story as well as listing the main villain and any other cogent info. Printed on heavy, expensive paper stock with a magnificent cover, this first Index ish sells for \$3.95 and is available at most stores that specialize in comicbooks; or write to G&T Enterprises Ltd., P.O. Box 127, Station "T", Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6B 3Z9 for full details. Try to remember "Generous George" Olshesky, 'cause he and I are working on a brand new project that'll tingle your toenails when you hear about it! But we're keeping it under our beanies for a few more months-- after all, you're only human; how much wonderment can you bear in one sweet-talkin' Soapbox?! So, till I collar you again next ish, nous verrons ce que nous verrons!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Let's start with something long overdue, namely a warm welcome aboard to hitherto unheralded newcomers to the Bullpen. So say hello to "Kuddly KAREN" DOUGHERTY, demon letterer, "Nuff Said NELSON" YOMTOV, past master at pasting up the titles, balloons, and art we're often rearranging on our mixed-up pages, and "Wandering WARREN" STOROB, who makes the many photostatic copies required of those self-same pages for the production of our books. Another hi to "Lilting LINDA" TAXEL, new assistant to Vice President SOL BRODSKY, and to "Dandy MICHAEL" SANDY, who's stepping in to keep things moving in our Coloring Department. Nice folks all, and worthy additions to the collective craziness that's Merry Marvel.

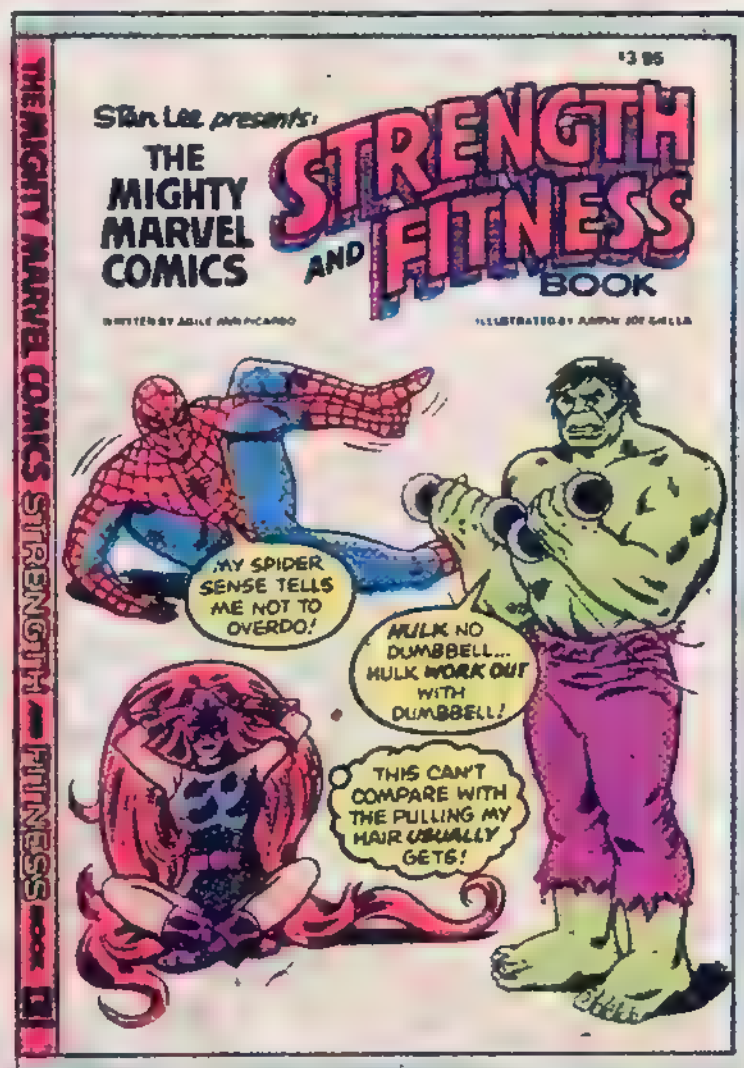
ITEM! Like previous summer months, August is TREASURY EDITION time. What can we lay on you after last month's awesome, all-original adaptation of 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (A few copies of which may still be available for the slowpokes among you, if you stop hesitating and start hurrying to your local magazine rack)? Well, one of our best, actually. It's a return engagement with the FANTASTIC FOUR, and this time around we focus on their most famous confrontations with such fearsome foes as DR. DOOM, SUB-MARINER, and the FRIGHTFUL FOUR. The selections span a decade of "the world's greatest comic magazine" and offer proof-- as if it's really needed-- why that particular cover blurb is anything but hyperbole. And wait till you see all that history-making artwork in the larger, clearer, eye-popping size! You may just be as proud to own this Treasury as we are to produce it.

ITEM! Speaking of pride, members of the Bullpen softball team have been parading the halls with puffed out chests and cheshire cat grins after a hard earned 7 to 5 triumph over Franklin Watts in our publishers league. Coming on top of a 15 to 14 squeaker with a local area comics fan team, our demons of the diamonds' expectations for the future have never been higher. (Okay, people, now will you get out of the cheering section and back to the drawing board?)

ITEM! One other sports note before we head for the showers. FANTASTIC FOUR and AVENGERS inker extraordinaire, JOE SINNOTT tells us that in the Saugerties NY Athletic Association's teen basketball league, his son MARK's team not only won the championship, but Mark was voted the league's most valuable player as well. Congratulations to you and your teammates, Mark! Naturally, everyone will probably credit such terrific success to sheer talent, ability, and hard work, but we'd like to think that those Marvel t-shirts Mark and company have been sporting had something to do with it!

ITEM! Bruce Lee fans are in for a treat this month. "Joyful JOHN" WARNER and "Reliable RALPH" MACCHIO of our black and white department have come up with a special issue of DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU that gives you cover-to-cover coverage of the master martial artist. Highlighting the book will be a comic art adaptation of Lee's life. Written by John, drawn by JOE STATON, and inked by THE TRIBE, this 36 page extravaganza represents an unusual departure in use of the graphic story and could well become a comics milestone. Whether you're into movies, martial arts, or Marvel master-works, this one is worth your while.

ITEM! If you find yourself huffing and puffing a bit after running for some of the titles we've been touting, could be you're in need of one of our special projects being done in collaboration with Simon and Schuster (The book publishing folks who, along with a man named STAN, brought you ORIGINS OF MARVEL and SON OF ORIGINS). It's called THE MIGHTY MARVEL STRENGTH AND FITNESS BOOK, and if you look around the page, we should have a picture of it for you.



Exercise books you may have seen before, but never one that makes it so downright much fun. With demonstrators like the Hulk, Spidey, and Silver Surfer. (among others) showing you how, it couldn't be any other way. Even J. Jonah Jameson gets into the act (Eat your heart out, Jack LaLanne)! It goes on sale in September, fitness buffs. Look for it in your favorite book store. (Or your second favorite. We don't want to be pushy)

ITEM! Hey, no more items this time out! Catch you next month, same time, same page.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

ARCHIE GOODWIN
Editor

JIM SHOOTER
Associate Editor

ROGER SLIFER, SCOTT EDELMAN, ROGER STERN
Assistant Editors

JOHN ROMITA
Art Director

JOHN VERPOORTEN
Production Manager

IRVING FORBUSH
Special Effects

SPIDER-MAN! IN THE SPIDER-MAN AND THE FLY!

SPIDER-MAN IS A PRISONER OF THE VILLAIN CALLED, THE FLY.

WAKE UP, WEB HEAD.

JUST WHAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED... TO HAVE BREAKFAST WITH THE FLY!... BUT WHAT HAPPENED... I REMEMBER BEING THROWN FROM THE TOP OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, FLY... NOW THAT WASN'T NICE!... BUT WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

I'M HERE TO "ENTERTAIN" YOU, WEB SLINGER.

...JUST WHAT I NEED... A FEW LAUGHS

DON'T GET TRAPPED IN YOUR OWN NETWORK OF PUNS, INSECT IMITATOR... THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER... YOU'LL SOON BE WIGGLING AND SQUIRMING, MY SPIDERY FRIEND, WHEN YOU SEE WHAT I HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU.

WRONG, MY BUZZING FLY FRIEND! THESE STRAPS CAN'T HOLD ME, SO WHATEVER YOU HAVE IN STORE, YOU'LL HAVE TO SELL TO SOMEONE ELSE!

AHA! "COME INTO MY PARLOR, SAID THE FLY TO THE SPIDER"... OR WAS IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND?

MY SPIDER SENSE IS TINGLING BUT NOTHING ELSE IS MOVING. I MUST BREAK THIS ELECTRONIC FIELD TRAP, SOMEHOW.

THIS IS SERIOUS, MY WIRY FRIEND AND ENEMY. LET'S HEAR A JOKE NOW.

ZWEEE

OKAY YOU WIN. I GIVE UP. BUT FIRST HAVE A **HOSTESS® "TWINKIES"** HERE IN MY UTILITY BELT.

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OK, MY BUZZING GAD-FLY--I'M GOING TO SWAT YOU LIKE A MOSQUITO...

THONK!

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AND WHO'S ALSO VERY **CURIOUS** ABOUT WHERE HIS **SUDDEN SURGE OF STRENGTH** HAS COME FROM --YOU WERE ON YOUR **LAST LEGS**, MISTER.

IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE **ADRENALIN**-- BUT IF NOT THAT, THEN WHAT?

HEY, MAN, QUIT LOOKING YOUR **GIFT HORSE** IN ITS MOUTH!

YOU'VE GOT ALL THE **STRENGTH** YOU NEED NOW--

WHUK!

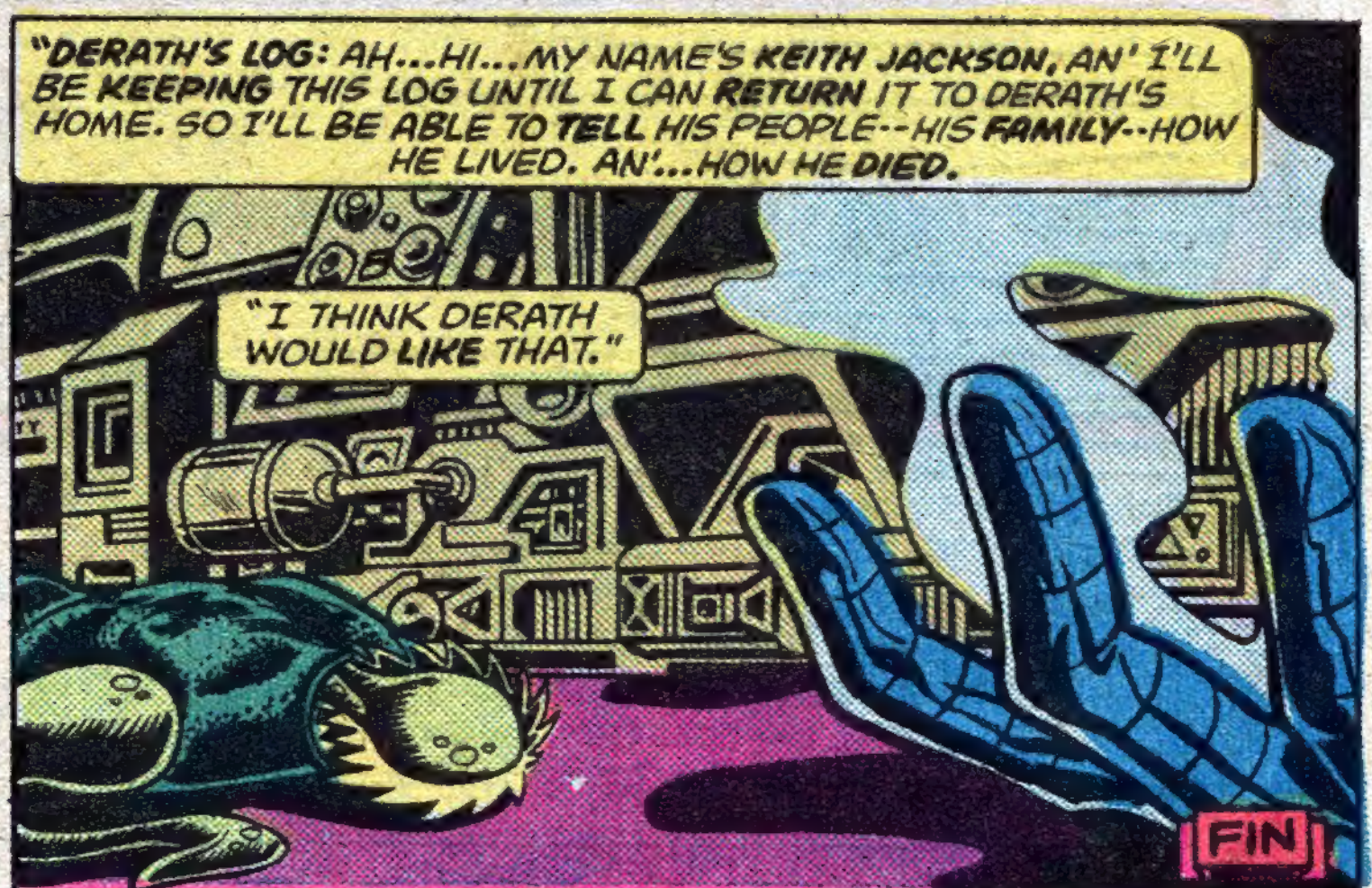
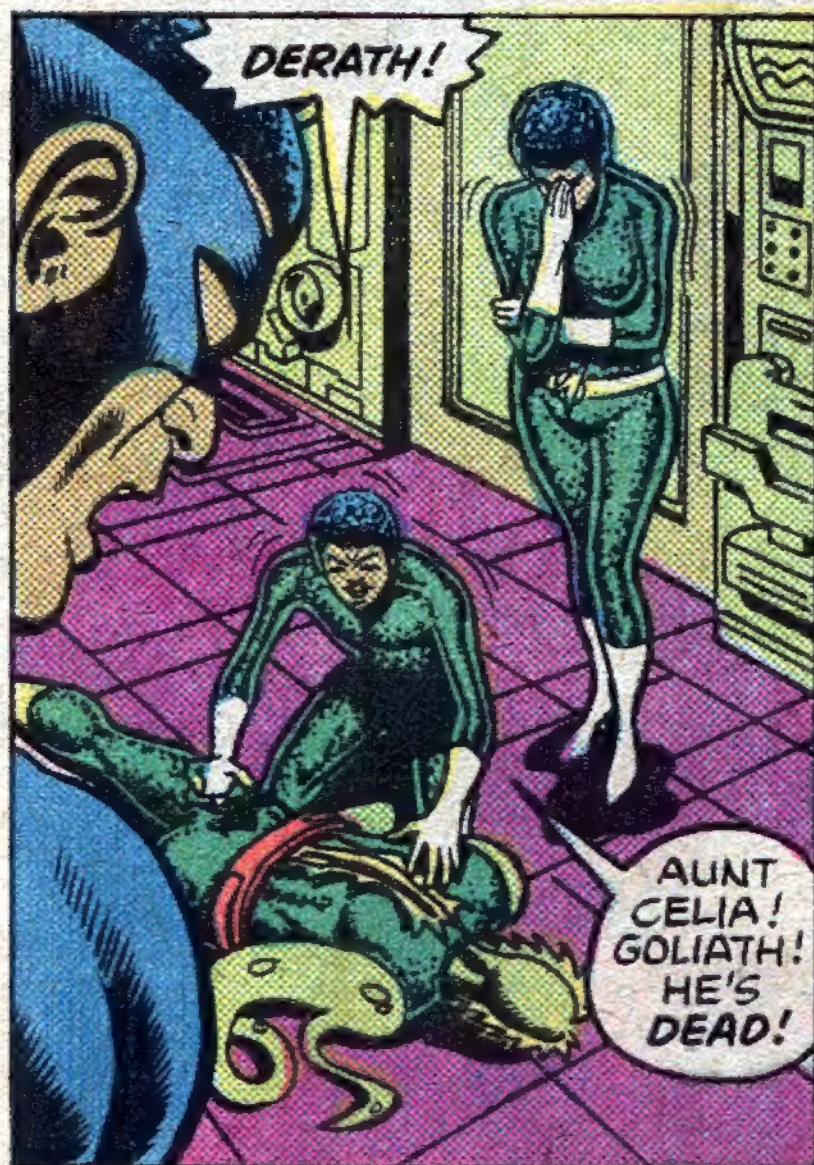
--SO WHY DON'T YOU **USE IT** WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE **CHANCE?**

BRAB!

MORTAG!! THIS IS FOR THE MAN YOU **MURDERED!**

THIS IS FOR **DERATH!**

KRASH!

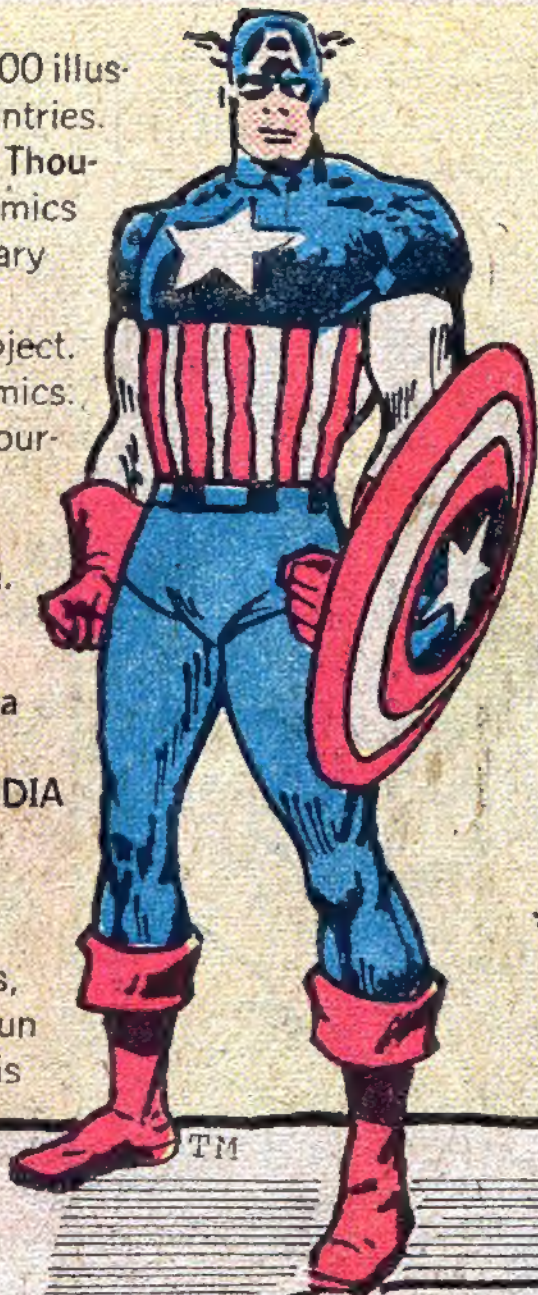


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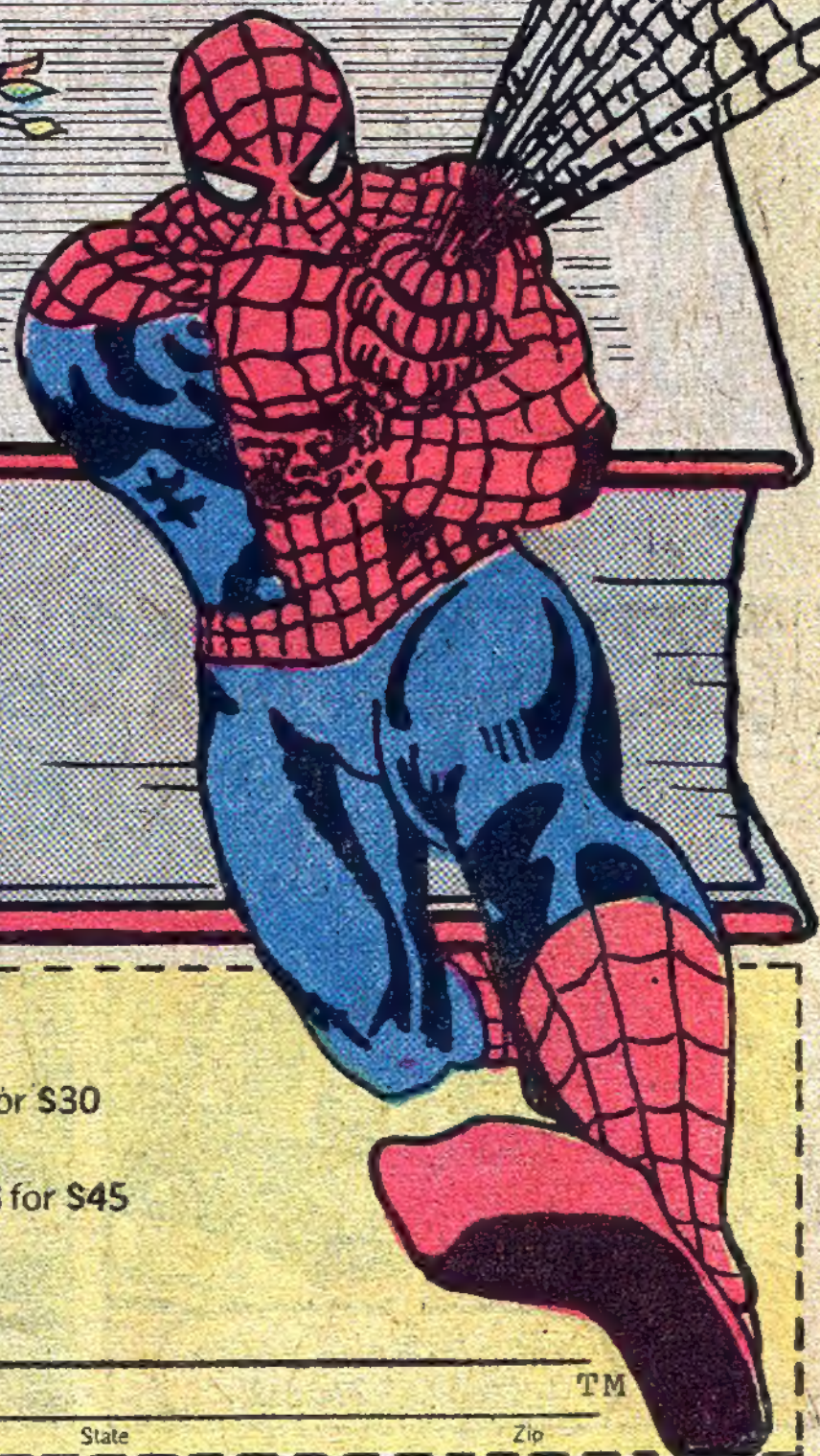
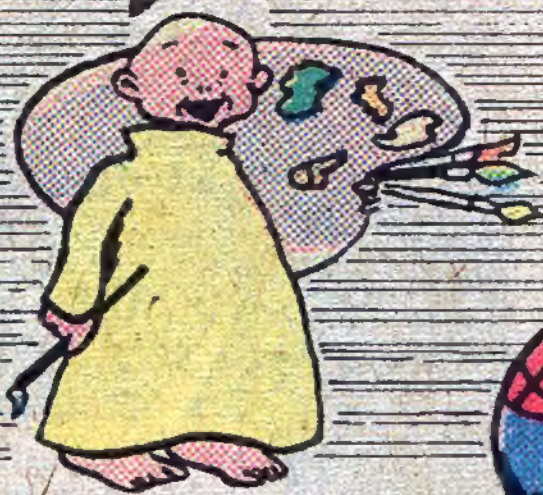
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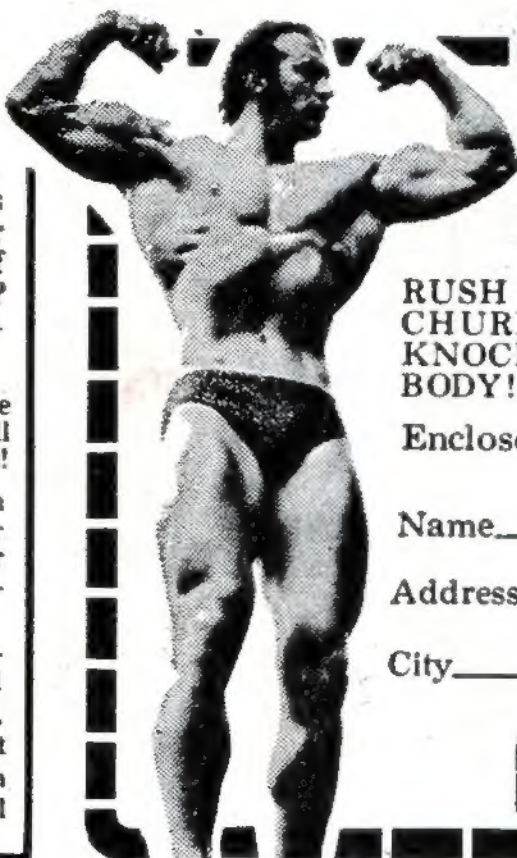
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